

The Hon. Herschel C. Loveless
Governor of the State of Iowa

Welcome

IT IS A DISTINCT PLEASURE as well as a privilege for me, as Governor of the State of Iowa, to extend an official welcome to the distinguished visitors and friends of the Iowa State College on this occasion. The state of Iowa is honored by your participation with us in the observance of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of this institution.

It is entirely fitting and proper, as we mark the first century of service by Iowa State College, to pause and evaluate the accomplishments of the College and to renew our determination that it shall continue to contribute to the welfare of the people of Iowa, the nation, and indeed the world.

During the past century, Iowa State College has achieved many distinctions. It was the first institution in the nation to comply with the provisions of the Morrill Act establishing it as a land-grant college; the College was also the first land-grant college to be coeducational, and the first insti-

14 *Commemorative Papers*

tution of higher education to provide courses in home economics for college credit.

I could cite a long list of instances in which the College has achieved pre-eminence. But more important than these has been the basic philosophy underlying the establishment and operation of the College. Very early a wise board of trustees recognized that the success of the institution depended more on the character, ability, and leadership of its faculty than upon any other set of factors. So long as priority is given to the quality of the men and women who teach and carry on the research and extension activities of this institution, we need not be concerned for its continued excellence.

In the legislative deliberations which led to the establishment of Iowa State College, our forefathers wisely provided for an institution of higher education which was especially adapted to the young and dynamic democracy in which it was to operate. In a very special sense, the State College was established for the working class of people — the farmers, the mechanics, the artisans, and the manufacturers of Iowa. By providing basic courses in the sciences and the arts, as well as practical training in the application of these principles, Iowa State College has made a unique contribution to the development of Iowa and our nation.

But the College has been more than a vocational training institution. From a very early date it has contributed to a richer life for the citizens of this state through its activities in the broader academic areas. It is a mark of great promise that Iowa State College has — down through the years — successfully achieved balance in its program for the training of our young people.

The policies which have guided the program at Iowa

State College have also been characterized by a very healthy awareness of the need to modify teaching, research, and extension programs, in response to changing needs of our people. In coming years, when the speed of social and technical change will be accelerated, it will be vitally important to maintain this flexibility. The spectacular innovations which we have witnessed since the end of World War II are striking evidence of the rapidity with which new fields of endeavor are opened, and established areas of activity decline in relative significance.

For example, the new agricultural adjustment program has been made necessary by undreamed of advances in the technology of production. We must now match these increases in productivity with new and expanded markets, new methods of processing and distributing agricultural products, and the revitalization of our rural communities. In this task, as in those which it has faced in the first century, I know I express the confidence of the people of Iowa when I say that we know the College will find a way.

In conclusion, I should again like to extend a most cordial welcome to President Morrill and to other distinguished guests. We hope your visit in Iowa will be pleasant and that you will gain inspiration from the review of the first century of Iowa State College.

