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Address for All GVSC Faculty, delivered at Opening Convocation on September 20, 1971

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Good morning! I apologize for talking with you through the electronic device rather than in person. Through a grant from the U. S. State Department, the Association of State Colleges and Universities is sponsoring an India Seminar that hopefully will result in faculty and student exchanges between Indian colleges and universities and institutions of the Association. I was invited to participate in the seminar, accepted the invitation, and, consequently, speak to you via television because today I will be in Agra, India.

My first topic of discussion may be outdated by the time you listen to this tape. It is the wage-price freeze and its effect on Grand Valley personnel. As Vice President Hills indicated to you in his memorandum, we believe the faculty are entitled to their increase in salary because of contractual commitments and the approval of salary scales and budgets by the Board of Control prior to August 15. We have made our case and presented it to the Cost of Living Council. If they have concurred by now, there is no problem. If the Council does not accept our rationale, we will review the situation, meet with faculty representatives from each college and the All College Senate to make plans to correct inequities and secure increases after the freeze is lifted.

This is the first year that GVSC is a group of colleges. The early vision of faculty and friends is becoming a reality. We welcome William James College into our midst with confidence in its success because our past confidence in the
College of Arts and Sciences and Thomas Jefferson College has been justified. I look upon the coming year as one of development and consolidation for the three colleges. CAS must make decisions about enrollment for the future, standards for admission, and expectations for both faculty and students. CAS has really been Grand Valley State College; it has taken the major responsibility for growth in numbers of students and variety of programs. What should be its role in the near future? This is a decision we must make together this year.

Thomas Jefferson College is maturing. I appreciate the pioneering spirit of those who launched this experimental college and believe TJC will continue to provide students with a viable option in the way they educate themselves. Perhaps the most important opportunity in TJC is offered to faculty. They can develop a style of teaching and communicating that is not necessarily useful in other kinds of colleges. From my viewpoint, TJC, as a new college using new procedures, needs to sort out what is good and what is not, what leads towards their objectives and what approaches have failed them. The faculty and students of this college have emphasized community and individuality. Though these two characteristics can be compatible, they are not necessarily so. The task of the faculty and students this year will be to see that the proper conditions develop. This will require effort and good will because 100 more students and a faculty nearly doubled in number will pump a considerable degree of added individuality into the college. It is important for GVSC and for higher education that TJC succeed. I believe it has and that refinement, improvement, and growth will be its hallmark in the next years.
As our two established colleges meet the needs of student groups, so William James College is designed to attract the person who wants his education to be broad, interdisciplinary, and yet direct him towards a field that has specific jobs available when he graduates. I am surprised that William James College is in existence this fall. The fact that it is, is a credit to the fine and energetic task force that put the college together and the faculty of the other colleges who have the willingness and courage to let something new and, in some ways, competitive emerge. The existence of this college is not endangered. There will be students ready to enroll. The success, however, depends on the ability of the faculty to work together, to give birth to a William James College ethos, and to strive, plan, and teach in such a way that the objectives which make the college different from others will in fact be realized.

Though three colleges exist, planning for the future is just beginning. Though we must consolidate our gains, we must look towards what is ahead. When should we open College Four, what type of college should it be? Do we have any obligation to offer graduate education? If so, when and in what fields? If not, why not? How can we utilize ETV for ourselves, for the general public, in cooperation with area institutions? What role should research play at GVSC? What are the aspirations each of you has as a part of GVSC? Where do we go in health studies? Who do we assist business and labor? What does continuing education mean and what is our role in it? What is equal opportunity in education? How do women find a new role in a changing society? How do men find it, for that matter? When can a minority group take pride in its heritage and still feel that it belongs to a larger society, one that is open to it? What will the study of
science be in the future, social studies? We need answers to these and other questions that may occur to you. So that we can gather information on which to formulate plans, an Office of Planning has been established under the direction of the new assistant to the President, Dr. Harold Kolenbrander. He and Dr. Walkoe of the CAS faculty have been taking the preliminary steps to organize a long-range planning operation. It will be in all our best interests if we cooperate with those who are doing the staff work in this major undertaking.

I would like to develop some of the subjects I have raised in the questions, but there is not time. You have been patient listening to a non-TV personality on TV long enough. I will address myself to them and report on my trip and its implications for our International Studies Program at 1 p.m. on Friday, November 5, in the Louis Armstrong Theatre.

In closing, I want you to know how much I have appreciated working as your colleague in the past few years. I hope the new faculty will catch the spirit of an interesting, open-minded, improving institution from you. We have the makings of a useful, excellent group of colleges. Without a good faculty, nothing of significance is possible. Excellent teachers who care about students, have pride in themselves, keep up in their fields, and constantly try to improve their ability to communicate, will build the important colleges of the future.

In addition to concerned faculty, cooperative and skillful administrators and students have worked hard to build this place. Though each of these groups has its own understandable viewpoint in a given situation, I hope the lines separating them continue to blur sufficiently so that we can work together harmoniously for the
benefit of all, particularly the students. Thank you. I will be on campus again in mid-October.

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