9-30-1976

Introduction of Dr. William Spoelhof, delivered at Rotary Club Meeting on September 30, 1976

Arend D. Lubbers
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches

Part of the Archival Science Commons, Education Commons, and the History Commons

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches/33

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Presidential Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.
Introduction of Dr. William Spoelhof  
at Rotary Club Meeting, September 30, 1976  
by Arend D. Lubbers

It is a pleasure to introduce our fellow Rotarian, Dr. William Spoelhof. He is a person who survived and prospered professionally for 25 years in a job that has an average tenure in office of between four and five years, that of college president. We all know Bill as the former president of Calvin College. To most of us his name is synonymous with Calvin and its remarkable development as a college of high academic quality, an institution that provides leadership and insight for the Christian Reformed Church, a community resource that offers services and facilities to all of us who live in the Grand Rapids Metropolitan area, and a basketball team that always gives Aquinas and Grand Valley a tough time every winter.

There is no doubt that Calvin was transformed during his administration. The move from the Franklin Street campus to the present location on the East Beltline is perhaps the largest jewel in a crown of achievements for Bill Spoelhof. In addition to all that success, he is a nice guy. There are also some additional facts you should know about him other than that he was one of America's best college presidents.

For instance, he learned to swim when he was 60 years old. I don't know why, but it must say something about him. In addition to being successful, he is very bright; that's an unusual combination. He is a Phi Beta Kappa from graduate school days at the University of Michigan. He is also a real live knight. You may have thought they disappeared with the Middle Ages, but that is not true. The Queen of the Netherlands made him one in 1946, armour and all. The same year he was recognized by the Queen, he was honored by his own government as well. He was awarded the Bronze Star for distinguished military service.

He has the ability to keep life interesting. Most recently, he travelled to South Africa for the United States Information Agency to review and evaluate the work of that agency's office in South Africa as it tries to inform the people of that country about the United States. Because of that trip, he is the best informed person about South Africa and its troubles that we have in this Rotary Club, the City of Grand Rapids, and perhaps the State of Michigan. For that reason, I present to you my friend and valued colleague, Dr. William Spoelhof, president-emeritus of Calvin College, international traveller, student of foreign affairs, and community leader who will tell us about South Africa.