

Introduction of Dr. Leo Jenkins, President, East Carolina
University

By: Robert Morgan

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It is said that at exactly 5:13 in the morning on the 18th of April, 1906, a cow was standing somewhere between the main barn and the milking shed of the old Shafter ranch in California, minding her own business. Suddenly, the earth shook, the skies trembled, and when it was all over, there was nothing showing of the cow but a bit of her tail.

This Shafter cow is a symbol of our times. She stood quietly enough, thinking such gentle thoughts as cows are likely to have, while huge forces beyond her knowledge built up all around her. Within a minute, in a great movement, a force was discharged that changed the configuration of the earth, destroyed a city, and swallowed her up.

My purpose in relating this story to you is that we are fortunate in our State to have a man who has not stood

still while the great forces of change have occurred but has guided the great forces at work in our world today and has met the challenge of our changing society. He has not avoided controversy but has met controversy head on and has time and time again demonstrated the courage to do what he thinks is right.

He came to North Carolina from New Jersey where he was Assistant Commissioner of Higher Education and has been with East Carolina University since 1947 and its President since 1960.

His honors cover a page of biographical material, and I will not take the time to list them here, but you may rest assured that he has lived his life in giving of himself.

He is married to a most gracious lady, and they have six children.

It is my honor and privilege to present to you a man who believes in keeping alive in young people the courage to be free, and to seek the truth, and imparting to them an awareness of our ever-changing society - Dr. Leo Jenkins.