

Chapel March 5, 1930

____ President Wright

Scripture Reading: Matthew 11, Verses 7-15

I suppose I ought to, but I don't, know just when the Student Government Association holds its spring election, but I know it is some time soon. This is election year not only in our college, but all over our state, and election is, perhaps the most important year we have. It determines largely the kind of government under which you and I are to live. It is up to the citizens to see that we send the right kind of people to make, judge and execute our laws. If we select the right kind of folks then we will have a good government. If we select the wrong people to make, judge, and execute our laws then we, who elected them, will have all kinds of trouble. We are having trouble in this nation today, enforcing the prohibition law, having considerable trouble all over the nation with that particular law. If we would only stop and think over the matter we would see clearly where the trouble lies. The people who judge, ^{and} the people who execute our laws are not always in favor of this particular legislation. There are too many judges all over the country who patronize bootleggers, too many solicitors who are buying moonshine for us to enforce the prohibition law. There are too many sheriffs who are getting a rake-off from those who are running this illegal business--there is where the trouble lies. In its final analysis we find the trouble is with those people who have been elected, all over the nation to enforce this law, who are, themselves, not in favor of it.

You, young women, have had the best year so far there has ever been in this college. I am just as proud of you as I can be. People in North Carolina who are interested in college life, and practically all of our citizens are, are very much concerned as to whether the college which their son or daughter is attending is teaching the right kind of principles, of religion, of citizenship, and of duty.

The Masons have recently given us another \$1,000 to add to the Masonic Loan Fund here, bringing our fund up to \$6,500. Yesterday I received a questionnaire asking about the citizenship that was being taught in our college, about religion, etc; about the way we conducted the college and our efforts to make right-minded, true, efficient American citizens of the students who attend our college. I was glad to answer those questions; glad to find a body of people who are so deeply concerned about the development of good citizenship. It occurred to me that this would be a good time to say a word to you about the Student Government Association and the officers for next year. This is your job, not mine, but after all your job is mine, and I am only hoping that in your nominations and elections you put up the kind of students who are as efficient and can give you as good Student Government Association as you have had this year. It is your government and your opportunity to choose the right kind of girls with the right kind of ideas of good citizenship and government, of fairness and order.

You don't want to put up the kind of girl who thinks the office gives her a right to violate the law. There are such Judges in the courts of our country, such solicitors in ~~every~~ ^{many} judicial district, and in every county officers who think their position gives them the right to violate the laws they are paid to enforce. It would be bad enough if the trouble were confined to that particular person, but with a girl of that type in the S. G. A. or an officer of that type anywhere, you have placed someone where his influence is felt and that influence is bad. You do not want a tyrant--nobody wants a tyrant--but you want a fair-minded young woman who is too big to let prejudice enter in, too big to let favoritism enter in, who will endeavor regardless of individual feelings and thoughts to hold the scales of justice in an even balance.

You do not want to let the few---there are a few, but only a few this year, I am glad to say--we do not want to let those few who want to violate the law dominate the student body. At this, probably the most important season in the whole year, it is up to you, young women, to see that, in selecting your officers for the coming year you get the right kind of people.

There are very few people who are punished, and severely punished, who think they should have been. I have known a few students, however, who said "I ought to have been punished for this." Some years ago a girl came into my office who was guilty of a serious offense, but not one for which girls were expelled. She said, "Dr. Wright, I am guilty." "What do you think the punishment ought to be?" I asked her. She told me. "Do you really think you should be punished that severely?" I asked. "I don't know," she said, "but for the sake of the other students you should do something about it." (I couldn't). But she saw clearly that not only because she was guilty of the offense but for the sake of the students she should be punished. She made next to the best teacher we turned out that year, but that experience is what saved her.

More frequently we meet with the kind who go out and say "They didn't treat me right." "Weren't you guilty?" "Yes, but I didn't deserve to be punished." That type can stir up more trouble than a bunch of monkeys could if turned loose in this auditorium.

Young women, you are right-minded, practically the entire student body. See to it that for the next year we have as good organization as we have had this year. You are a pretty good bunch of girls. You have done well in your selection of officers. I take my hat off to you for that. And when the time comes for you to think about new ones, think carefully.

I hope you choose aright.