

CHAPEL, NOVEMBER 22, 1932

PKW

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: 95th Psalm

I have been very much pleased with the programs that have been put on during the last few mornings. I am pleased with the spirit that I find in the college, and that is one of the chief reasons for my Thanksgiving this year; the splendid spirit of the student body of this college; the splendid spirit shown by the boys in their football games. You played the game according to the rules, boys; you had a light team but a good team. I have been very much pleased with what I have seen in that particular line of activity.

I am glad that we are able to give you a short holiday for Thanksgiving. The splendid spirit the great mass of the student body is showing toward this is very, very pleasing to me. (Of course, there are a few, as there always are, that want something special done for them.) For the sake of those who are here for the first time I will explain just how these holidays are worked out. A committee of faculty members, working with a committee from the student body, works out the time we shall give for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter holidays. Last year was the first time we had a Thanksgiving holiday. This holiday begins tomorrow at 12:25 and ends Monday morning at 8:15. You are under contract, as it were, with the management of the college to conform to those hours. You are not required to go away. You can stay at the college, if you want to, without extra pay. We do close the college during the Christmas holidays, but you can stay during the Thanksgiving or Easter holidays. But we do not give you permission to go before the holiday begins, or to stay after it ends, and it won't do any good to worry the life out of us trying to make us let you. If you make the holiday a stumbling block, a handicap, to the operation of the college I want to tell you this morning you will lose it. We are operating the college for your best interests and we are going to give

you just as much freedom as you can take , but life is so organized that we have duties to perform. A very dear friend of mine called me over the 'phone this morning and asked me to go duck hunting with him tomorrow. Next to fishing if there is anything I like to do it is shoot duck, but I told him I couldn't go; told him that school was closing and I had to be here. Oh, I know it could close without me, but I had a duty to perform and that duty is here. All through life you will find that you must give up things you want to do because duty calls you to something else.

I want you to have a real Thanksgiving and enjoy your holiday. We are living in a time when the world is filled with trouble and sorrow and men and women are more or less despondent. We may say, what have we to be thankful for? I am not sure that we shouldn't be thankful that we are living in this particular period. It is bringing us to a realization of the things that are worthwhile and really count in life; making us weigh values and put the emphasis where the emphasis belongs. Human society, as it is organized, is calling for a tremendous amount of sacrifice on the part of right-minded folks. By making the right kind of sacrifices we are going to be of the greatest possible service to our fellowman.

I am pleased with the splendid spirit of the great mass of the student body with reference to this Thanksgiving holiday. There are a few who are eternally after us about something "in my case". "It is so important". The sun is going to shine, and the birds continue to sing whether you get home for Thanksgiving dinner or not. It is of no more importance than my want to go duck hunting. Of course I'm not talking about life and death matters, or illness at home. I am talking about pleasure seeking. I had a sister who went through college and spent two years without coming home--and it didn't kill her!

She lived to get over it and get married and raise a family.

Do not let your desire for pleasure get such a hold over you that you cannot stick to your post of duty. That will be my thanksgiving message to you, above all things.

I do not expect you to remain here after you have completed the last of your tasks. When you have had your last recitation you can go home if you are going home. You need not stay for chapel tomorrow, though we are going to have a splendid chapel program. But you do not have to stay for that.

I have been noticing carefully the students ^{who} ~~that~~ have been cutting chapel, and the thing that stands out is that nearly every one of them has one or more failures against him. Those I have seen and talked to have had from one to seven fives on their records. The student who doesn't come up to his duties in other things is the student who makes failures. Sometimes a student doing his best fails, but nearly every student that has come to see me for missing chapel has been neglecting his other duties. Young friends, it is very important that you meet your obligations every time.

I hope you are going to have a real Thanksgiving.