

(P.W.)

CHAPEL, March 14, 1933

-- President Wright

We have started on the last quarter of this college year, and I hope at the end of this quarter there will be no weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, and copious tears shed because of failures in your courses. The time to get started is today--not tomorrow. Good luck to you in this quarter.

The Governor of our state spoke to the General Assembly of North Carolina last night. Every student in college ought to read what he had to say. He came out absolutely for education in our state, and favors the eight months school term, supported by the state. This is interesting because it is the first time we have had a governor come out for the eight months school term for all children in North Carolina. Of course, we people who realize the grave necessity for educating all the people are glad to know that we have a governor who knows the necessity also.

I have been trying to talk to you on business administration in government. Can a republic remain a republic and be organized on the basis of business? What and in the nation is going to be the type of government we will have in North Carolina/in the near future if we continue to carry on government on the basis of big business? To answer that question it is necessary for you first to look into the organization of big business. If our government is organized on a business basis it must be on the basis of big business, because government--and that includes public education, the administration of educational institutions, tax-supported, and all functions of a government--it is the biggest business in the state or nation. Government in all its ramifications is the biggest business in the state. Then if we are to organize government on the basis of business it must be on the basis of big business. On this basis some one person must have absolute power to hire and to fire, to fix wages and salaries, and responsibilities, to create new divisions, to discontinue divisions already created, to give authority to subordinates and to remove authority from subordinates, etc. It wouldn't be a big business unless some one heading it had

that authority. There are a few big businesses in this country that have attempted to carry on/a slightly different basis, but in the final analysis some one must have almost absolute authority. Now if that is representative of the organization of a big business, and if those principles are put in effect in government, then it cannot be a republic. It cannot be a democracy in the sense of a democracy as a republic. We have organized our national government in a large measure and our state government in a large measure on the basis of a big business. Since I made the first of these talks the President of the United States has asked Congress to give him almost unlimited authority in two or three fields of government. It has given him absolute authority in at least one field of government. He has asked for power to reorganize, that is to discontinue, to create and consolidate new departments of government. It would look like our republic had already changed from a republic to some form of absolutism. However, the president has asked for this power for only a short time and as a temporary measure because of the distressed condition that confronts us. The governor of our state has asked the legislature not to act on certain pieces of legislation until after he talks to them, and they have waited. There is one phase of big business that I am afraid we have overlooked. Business is organized primarily for profit-making. Government is organized primarily for service. Now, is it going to be best to take an organization that is created for profit-making and convert it into an organization for service? If we can, then we can organize our government on the basis of a big business and still retain its fundamental purpose of being a servant. It must be of service to the individual in the protection of life and property, in preserving for the ~~state and~~ individual the greatest amount of freedom. Government is intended to serve. Then, can it be on the basis of big business? (More about this later.)