

CHAPEL, October 26, 1933

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: 18 verses from the 8th Chapter, Book of Romans

There is resting upon the student body of every college in America today a responsibility that you young people cannot realize. Unquestionably, there is a nation-wide campaign on the part of certain financial interests in our country to magnify the cost of education, and over-look the tremendous debts that come to the nation from expenditures for war. We hear so much about balancing the budget. The French Cabinet resigned this week because of that issue. We should balance the budget, but if, in so doing, we fail in our obligation to the youth of today, then a generation from now we will pay very, very dearly for our false economy. The responsibility resting upon the student body of every college in America is a responsibility that can be met in two ways. One is to show yourselves worthy from the standpoint of scholarship, and the other is to show yourselves worthy from the standpoint of the characters you build. Just what the civilization of tomorrow is going to be, no one can finally tell at this time, but it is going to be different from the civilization that was when I was a boy, and when you were younger than you are today. There is a cry all over the nation against public education, that is distressing to the people who want the government of the nation and the government of the several states to do their full part toward the youth of today. The cry is that they can't stand the raise in taxes, and the raise in taxes has gone up three hundred per cent in the last few years. This is a tremendous jump. Why this great increase? Certain people in the nation try to center it upon the cost of education. That is an error. According to Glen Frank, of every dollar of the people's money spent, <sup>for the Federal Government</sup> seventy-five cents goes for past wars and preparation for wars in the future. <sup>tax</sup> Only one-fourth goes for the operation of the government. We have heard in North Carolina a great cry against schools, about the cost of education, and the tremendous debt that schools have heaped upon the people

of our state. As a matter of fact, only a little more than fourteen per cent of the total debt of our state is for education. Why people will center their activities upon the youth of today is something I do not understand, because there is no question about it, the good people of our nation do want their young folk properly educated. The only explanation I find to this situation is that the people do not know the real situation; the truth should be and must be carried to them. They do not realize that they are being misled by propaganda which is hitting at the heart of the future of the state and the nation. I am going to ask, <sup>you</sup> therefore, to prove yourselves most worthy of the confidence of all those you come in contact with, in college and out, realizing that your first duty is to make good as a student in college and that it is just as important that you make good when you leave college. Learn to conduct yourselves in such a way that people will say, "There is a fine young man" or "A fine young woman; she availed herself of the opportunities given her." If the students improve their opportunities in such a way that the people of the state and nation realize they cannot afford not to make this investment in character we will have no trouble in getting the necessary funds to carry on.

We must balance the budget; ~~Of course,~~ we must pay our debts. Yet North Carolina is spending millions of dollars improving roads and practically nothing improving public education. We have more good roads in North Carolina, except for certain sections (that have not been treated as they should have been treated by the Highway Commission), than we can buy gas to ride on. We have an ever increasing number of children going to the public schools and a decreasing number of teachers in the public schools. If we fail to balance our budget to the youth the nation will suffer in such a way that God alone knows what the consequences will be.

Your responsibility is to learn the truth and carry it to the people; to conduct yourselves in such a way that when you have finished college the people

with whom you come in contact will say, he or she has improved every opportunity given. Then people will be willing to sacrifice in order that education may go on. The responsibility for what will be done for the children and young people of tomorrow rests upon the youth of today.