

Chapel, February 18, 1927  
President Wright

I want to talk to you this morning for the rest of the period and perhaps a part of the period tomorrow morning on the subject of our responsibility in a republic. Our responsibility in a republic, - your responsibility and mine is what I am driving at, just the ordinary, everyday citizen's responsibility in a government like ours, that is, in a republic.

We have in a general way divided this government into three great divisions. The legislative division consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and these people are elected by all of those who are allowed to vote, and who are willing to put themselves to the trouble to vote, in the state. These people make the laws. <sup>They</sup> govern the state. Your responsibility and my responsibility is greater than we think for in the selection of law makers.

After the laws are made, however, another division of government (and I am not going to cut these divisions into their several sub-divisions) known as the judiciary, the judges of our state pass on the laws. The judges are the people who sit in the courts, and conduct the courts in cases and trials of all kinds, violations of the law. With a jury and witnesses the case is tried and the judge passes the sentence after a person is found guilty. In other words, the judges judge the laws. They do more than that, they make the decision with reference to what the penalty shall be as fixed in the law in which there is some latitude, and the judge determines what that is. Now we have a law, a person has violated it and been found guilty, and has been sentenced, as we call it. Now you see how important it is that we have the right kind of people as judges. A person may be guilty of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, and the judge may be guilty of having bought it from this particular man. Then he is not going to get much of a sentence. It is very important that we have the right kind of people as judges.

After the judge has passed the sentence on a person, then it becomes the business of the executive division of the government to see that this

decision of the court is put into operation. Some of the laws that are passed are laws that do not have to go through the courts for a decision, but that are left with the executive officials to execute. ~~There is no question of the judiciary,~~

Now with that combination and those divisions of authority, and all of these people being elected by the people who can vote, can you not begin to see the responsibility that rests upon you and upon me. Perhaps you will see it a little more clearly if I take this college, and just talk about it for a little while to bring out to you at this particular time the importance that rests upon the law makers. The State of North Carolina has established at Greenville East Carolina Teachers College and has defined in the law what this college is to do, -- it shall train young white men and women, shall prepare them to teach in the public schools of North Carolina, And the public schools of North Carolina means the grades and the high schools. The law has provided that there shall be a board of trustees who may sue and be sued, receive gifts, etc., and who may confer degrees and who shall give diplomas. In other words, the law has made this a teachers college, and has placed as the state's representative a board of trustees. This board of trustees can make the laws and regulations that govern the institution. The board of trustees select an executive officer known as the president of the college. It is the president's business to lay before that board of trustees the actual needs and his estimate of the cost for enlarging and for maintaining the college. In other words, the executive officer in the college has a responsibility that is greater than just simply a citizenship. He is to show to the board and study out with them what is to be done in an institution of this kind to accomplish the purposes for which the law has created it. And when that executive officer has laid that clearly before his board, and got his board to see the situation, they may agree with it or not, but the executive officer has done his duty when he gets it before them. I don't mean he ought to stop, but he has done his duty. Then it becomes the board's responsibility, and whatever the board decides upon, it then becomes their responsibility to take that to the law making body. They may ask their

executive officer to carry it for them, but while presenting it to the law making body, he is talking, not for himself, but for the board of trustees. The board of trustees puts this before the law makers and says to these people, East Carolina Teachers College needs for enlargement so much money, \$1,035,000, and then explains why they need that, and it says to the law making body, East Carolina Teachers College needs \$196,000 for maintaining the institution the next year, and \$240,000 for the year following, whatever the figure may be. Now, when that is carried through the board to the law making body, to the legislature, then the responsibility falls upon the law making body. Do you not see ~~just~~ through this illustration how very important it is in a republic that we have the very highest type of citizenship in our legislative halls that are to govern the people of this state. To be sure those folks who are making the laws and making appropriations, or whatever it may be, must take into consideration the sources from which they can collect money, that is by way of taxation. They must take into consideration how much they can collect as taxes, how much the needs of the various institutions and agencies of the state are, and if the needs are greater than the amount of money that they can collect, then they must bring down the amount that they are going to appropriate. They must bring it down until they can collect enough money to balance the amount that they appropriate. Then the question will arise to those people, for instance, shall we put five million or ten million dollars in educational institutions, and thirty million or forty million in roads. That kind of problem comes before the legislature. As a matter of fact, this present General Assembly has determined to spend five million dollars on all institutions, charitable, penal and educational, and I see in the papers that they have decided to spend thirty million on roads. Now, do we need thirty million dollars for roads worse than we need ten or twelve million for the education of our children in the institutions of higher learning. The people whom we send to Raleigh to make laws are the people who have to determine that thing. It is, therefore, exceedingly important that we sent to make the laws the very best type of citizen that we can find in our state.