



NEWS

FROM WATERLOO LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

WATERLOO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE — WATERLOO LUTHERAN SEMINARY

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UNIVERSITIES PRODUCE "POWERFUL MINORITY"

SAYS WLU PRESIDENT DR. VILLAUME

TORONTO -- University alumni are a powerful "creative minority" in society, the president of Waterloo Lutheran University, Dr. William J. Villaume said tonight.

Dr. Villaume was addressing a dinner meeting of 150 Toronto businessmen at the launching of a national campaign to raise \$2,100,000 for a new library and a science and business administration wing for Waterloo University College, the arts faculty of Waterloo Lutheran University.

A Christian university must develop each of its students as a whole person, and through its alumni it must influence positively the course of contemporary civilization, Dr. Villaume said.

"We are concerned about whole people--not only their minds in isolation but also their social, physical and spiritual development," he said.

"It is the desire of our independent, free-enterprise university to meet our fair share of the nation's urgent need for higher education."

"We look for some assistance to a small Protestant denomination that has supported the university for many years and has generously educated young people of all faiths."

"But now the need has far surpassed the resources of the Lutheran Synod of Eastern Canada. The university cannot meet its responsibility to Canadian youth without substantial financial assistance from alumni, parents, friends, corporations and interested citizens who not only believe that a free nation needs free institutions but also realizes that the existence of such institutions depends upon voluntary giving. Only then can free institutions survive."

Dr. Villaume pointed out that Waterloo Lutheran University is the only university in Ontario that does not receive funds from the provincial government.

He said that since early times Christian churches had established and nourished great universities. In Canada, he said, "virtually all have faded into the government universities ... One by one they were swallowed up, surrendering their autonomy for the tax money they needed to exist."

Dr. Villaume continued: "Government control of higher education is not a characteristic of free nations, nor has it ever produced the best in higher education. In contrast to the present tendency towards uniformity, consider the ancient city of Athens, known everywhere for its vigorous pursuit of truth These men had many views and different perspectives, and in vigorous contention with one another they all contributed to make Athens one of the greatest cultural educational centres in history."

"The ability to maintain the independence and integrity of Waterloo University College, the conservation of its philosophy of education, its refusal to accommodate itself to mere expediency in order to secure easy money, will depend upon the number of private and corporate citizens who come to its support and thereby defend the right of their fellow citizens to make a free choice of the kind of university in which they desire to pursue truth."

Dr. Villaume described the threefold "unique role" of Waterloo University College: to help meet the tremendous need for higher education without relegating

the entire task to the government; to maintain academic freedom in the face of the worldwide trend toward government control of higher education; to continue as a university which offers a quality education in a Christian setting.

Speaking on the influence of Waterloo University College in the community, Dr. Villaume quoted Toynbee's description of the "creative minority" which always wields an influence out of all proportion to its size.

"That is the function we covet for our alumni," he said, "And they must be adequately prepared for it. Society cannot do without these people and we cannot prepare them unless we maintain in all respects a first-class university.

"That does not mean that we must aspire to do everything that other universities do. Quite the contrary. A quality university which selects its fields of teaching with care and develops them well can have a greater impact on students than a comprehensive university that excludes nothing from its curriculum and devotes itself to mass education."

Dr. villaume concluded: "Waterloo University College is a concept whose time has come. The demand for higher education is unprecedented; the need for an independent university in Ontario has never been so clear; and the educational philosophy of Waterloo University College has never been more relevant to the needs of the nation and the world. It was for such a time as this that Waterloo University College was destined fifty years ago."

Other speakers at the dinner were: Douglas Ambridge, honorary chairman of the campaign, chairman of the board of Abitibi Power and Paper Company Ltd.; Dr. William J. Villaume, president and vice-chancellor of the university; Lt. Col. D. Alexander Ross, national corporations chairman and president of Canada Bread Ltd.; Benton Dixon, Toronto chairman and executive vice-president of Toronto Iron Works;

Don Young, chairman of the Toronto chapter of the Parents' Association and Marketing Manager of the Star Weekly; Harry D. Greb, chairman of the university board of governors and president of Greb Industries Ltd.; Dr. Frederick J. Speckeen, the college dean of students, and Archie McLean, president of the college students' council.

First phase of the campaign will be conducted among corporations with head offices in Toronto. Campaigns in Montreal, Hamilton and other cities across Canada will be launched shortly.