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# Chapel Transcript: November 19, 1976 - Bob Thomas

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CHAPEL

November 19, 1976

Bob Thomas

BS: Thank you. You may be seated. It is a great hymn to sing in preparation for Thanksgiving, isn't it? Every day is a day to praise the Lord, whether the nation gives thanks or not. All right, let me have your attention please. Someone didn't hear what we said last week and we are going to say it again, our last chapel hour. Next week, being the Thanksgiving holidays, there will be no chapel, of course, on Friday. We have decided to also give you next Wednesday's Chapel free and instead, add a third chapel the next week -- that will be on Monday, the 29. That is a special chapel in preparation for our regular basketball season -- we will hear more about that later -- with Madeline Jackson the famous Olympic athlete. Madeline Jackson, November 29, 11:00 o'clock in the morning. So, how many chapels next week? None. And three next week. When you applauded last week, you know, I acted real sorrowful or something. Two girls wrote me and said, "Brother Bob, we felt so sorry for you when everybody applauded because there were no chapels next week." I wrote them back and I said, "That is all right." If anybody else wants to write, it is okay with me though. All right. We have a special opportunity -- next Friday evening the President and Mrs. Roberts are inviting you to an open house. I am sorry, that is next Sunday, November 21 -- this coming Sunday, an open house, at the President's home from 2 until 4 in the afternoon. You will just dress as you would for church -- church dress. And you must have your I.D. card to present at the gate. Okay, President, now it is your time to get letters. An open house at President and Mrs. Roberts this coming Sunday between 2 and 4 in the afternoon and you must have your I.D. cards to present at the gate.

Now, to prevent some of you from dying of swine flu this summer, we believe in delivery systems here -- all kinds of delivery systems. And if the President of the United States invites us to have the flu immunization for swine flu, we want to do it, don't we? (OR: I have already had mine.) The President's already had his, he is not going to die of the swine flu. Flu immunization for swine flu only will be given to students, faculty, staff and spouses, 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 23, Zoppelt Auditorium. The City and County Health Department will conduct public clinics, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at 4616 East 15 Street and also in the Kelly Professional Building, 6565 South Yale. The swine flu vaccination is available without charge and is recommended but not required. You can die of it if you want to. All right now, take your swine flu things that you will find beneath your seat. Take one look at them, fold them and put them back and take them home with you after chapel. I just want you to know they are there. Fold them. Bibles. Psalm 32. What a great Psalm. Then a prayer of thanksgiving. I want you to be thinking as we read this Psalm today of all the things you have time to be thankful for. If you started counting you would run out of time, wouldn't you before you would run out of blessings to count. Let's take the Word of God and stand to attention as we read His Word. Psalm 32. We will read responsively, of course.

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

("Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.") "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all day long." ("For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.") "I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my

transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah." ("For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: Surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.") "Thou are my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah." ("I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou go: I will guide thee with mine eye.") "Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee." ("Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.")

(And all together on the 11th Verse.) "Be glad in the lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart."

Let's remain silent for just a moment and give thanks for all the blessings that we received. (Silent prayer.) I'll pray. Let us pray to the Lord, and you give thanks and say: "We give You thanks, O Lord." ("We give You thanks, O Lord.") Let us thank the Lord for the freedom of this land. Let us pray to the Lord. "We give You thanks, O Lord." Let us thank Him for our families, for our parents, for our guardians, for all those at home that love us and support us. Let us pray to the Lord. "We give You thanks, O Lord." Let us thank the Lord for this place that we belong to, that is our life these four years. It is our ministry and where we belong as one. Let us pray to the Lord. "We give You thanks, O Lord." Let us give thanks for that day that we found the Grace of God or that Grace found us -- when we came to know Him as friend and as Savior. Let us pray to the Lord. "We give You thanks, O Lord." For all the material blessings that are ours. Sometimes we run those

down. The very word material seems, seems almost dirty; but it is not. It is our life. It is part of us -- our bodies and our health, our sustenance and our well-being. Let us pray to the Lord. "We give thanks to You, O Lord." Let us give thanks for this Chapel hour, anticipating Him to come in might and in strength and through the Word as our brother brings it to us. Let us pray to the Lord. "We give You thanks, O Lord."

Our Father, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the Glory forever. Amen. You may be seated.

This morning, Joseph Saines comes to us. He is a member of the forensic team here at the University. The forensic team is the debate team of our campus. They have asked that we remember them in prayer. They are leaving today to represent ORU in the National Forensic Tournament in Lincoln, Nebraska. And Joseph Saines comes to bring us a special presentation from his heart to yours.

JS: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness moved upon the face of the waters. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the deep. Come with me -- back to the time when the earth was nothing but a dark chaotic mass -- Come! Take a trip to me, Back To The Creation by James Weldon Johnson. And God stepped out on space and He looked around and said: "Lonely! I'll make Me a world and as far as the eyes of God could see, darkness covered everything; blacker

than a hundred midnights down in the cypress swamp. Then God smiled and the light broke and the darkness rolled up on one side and the light stood shining on the other and God said: "That's good!" Then God reached out and took the light in His hands. And God rolled the light around in His hands until He made the sun and He set that sun ablazing in the heavens. And the light that was left from making the sun, God gathered it into a shining bowl and flung it against the darkness, sprinkling the night with the moon and the stars. Then down between the darkness and the light he hurled the world and God said: "That's good!" Then God himself stepped down and the sun was on His right hand and the moon was on His left. The stars were clustered about His head and the earth was underneath His feet. And God walked. And where He trod His footsteps hollowed the valleys out and bulged the mountains up. The God stopped and looked and saw that the earth was hot and barren. So God stepped over to the edge of the world and He spat out the seven seas. He batted his eyes and the lightnings flashed. He clapped His hands and the thunders rolled and the waters above the earth came down -- the poor little waters came down. Then the green grass sprouted. The little red flowers blossomed; the pine tree pointed its finger to the sky and the oak spread out its arms. And God spout again and the rainbow appeared and curled itself about His shoulder. Then God raised His arms and waved His hands over the seas and over the lands and said, "Bring forth, bring forth." And quicker than God could drop His hands, fishes and fowl and beasts and birds swam the rivers and the seas, roamed the forests and the woods and split the air with their wings and God said: "Uh-ha-ha. That's good!" Then God walked around and God looked around on all that He had made. He looked at His sun. He looked at His moon. He looked at His little stars. He looked on His world with all its living things and the great God said: "I am lonely still." Then God sat down by the side

of a hill where He could think -- by a deep, wide river He sat down. With His head in His hands, God thought -- and thought -- and thought -- and thought until He thought, "I'll make Me a man." Up from the bed of the river God scooped the clay and there by the bank of the river He kneeled him down. And then the great God Almighty who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky, who rounded the earth in the middle of His hands, who flung the stars to the foremost corner of the night -- this great God, like a mother caring for her child, kneeled down in that dust, toiling over a lump of clay until He shaped it into His image. Then into it He breathed the breath of life and man became a living soul! Amen. Amen and Amen. (Applause.)

OR: That was outstanding. Our speaker today is Mr. Bob Thomas. He is a native of Ohio. A graduate of Whorton School of Finance of the University of Pennsylvania. In his early business life he was associated with Mutual Fund operations in Boston and New York. For a period of nine years he served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the MKT Railroad Company. He serves on a number of counsels and committees related to energy and transportation that has to do with you and me -- our energy and transportation in this country. In Tulsa, he is a member of the Board of the Bank of Oklahoma and I have the privilege of sharing with him as being a co-member of that Board. He is Chairman of the Board of a great company in this nation, headquartered in Tulsa, called MAPCO -- MAPCO, INC. and he is responsible for the growth of that company from a very small to an extremely large one, now heading toward a billion dollar company. His work as a leader in the sustaining membership enrollment of the Tulsa-Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts has received national recognition by that organization. Bob is currently serving as Chairman of the Board of MAPCO and continues to be its great inspiration and

guiding force. This company is currently remodeling the old Shell building at 18 and Boulder and they will occupy it soon. Bob Thomas is really a great American. He has spoken all over America in the interest of the free enterprise system and has a very, very deep interest in what has made this country great, what it faces with its failures and mistakes, what is good about it and what we can do to make it greater. I personally asked Bob Thomas to come here and give us a Chapel. I have heard him speak. I have been by his side. He is a man of God. He is a man of tremendous business leadership and I think that you and I at ORU, where we live in the midst of a free enterprise system which under God made all this possible, and in which we have our greatest future, will have an honor this morning that is seldom had by any university when all of us can meet and hear a man. Now his talk will be made available at the end of this Chapel. It will be outside with those who will have stacks of them. You can pick up one as I will do. And it just gives me great honor and really a thrill to present to you something entirely different from what we ordinarily have; but so germane to our lives, to what we face everyday in this country and in ourselves. I am very proud of Bob Thomas and my friendship with him. Will you welcome, Bob Thomas? Bob.

BT: It makes me very happy (Applause.) Well I appreciated very much that wonderful introduction, Oral. And I, too, value your friendship very, very highly and it has been a real pleasure to serve with you on the Bank of Oklahoma Board and in other efforts in this town. I have talked to students many times before but in much smaller groups and I don't think I have ever had a captive audience this size, whether it be of students or adults, before. So it is a real privilege to be here. And this morning, I want to talk to you about 1976 and many other things because I think 1976 is going to be a year that many of



you will remember for a long time. The reason: because maybe by this time many of you are probably fed up with having had to listen to politicians, businessmen and other bicentennial speakers expounding at length with self-serving speeches, bragging about our great country and bragging about the past 200 years. In fact, looked at realistically from the standpoint of a businessman, the bicentennial celebration has been a great marketing gimmick for selling to the American public all sorts of nostalgic reminders of our great past. Many of these nostalgic reminders will end up in our attics. Well let me say, and hasten to say, that I am as proud as anyone of our national achievements. And I believe as much as anyone in the intrinsic strength of character and the potential of the American people; but really, the bicentennial celebration has been a self-deluding pat-ourselves-on-the-back national birthday shingdig. (Applause.) This enthusiasm surrounding our bicentennial has fostered a sense of misleading optimism. It is as if the whole nation was mesmerized and persuaded to turn away from realities by adopting a Pollyanna perspective about the past and an even more damaging Pollyanna outlook as regards the future. I say, the nation has been suffering with bicentennial fever, so let's cool it. In the first place, our past has not been by any stretch of the imagination all fun and games. We have had many moments of greatness as a people but we have also had depressions, wars, riots and what-not. Frankly, the past 200 years is history and we can do nothing, nothing whatever to change it. So, rather than bore you today with a typical all-is-great bicentennial speech, I am going to attempt to convey to you a hard-nosed businessman's approach to the problems facing business in our great country and the world. Problems such as high prices, energy, governmental stupidity and governmental caused inflation (Applause.) merely, to name a few of the problems that we seem to have in abundance these days. And now that I have

established the cheerful tone of this talk, let me say that things may not be as bad as I am going to depict them. In all likelihood they are probably worse. But then certainly no good can come from glossing over our problems. No good can come from sweeping problems neatly under the rug with fervent hopes that they just stay away. No good can come from elected officials who try to be all things to all people (Applause.) and no good can come out of believing America is the eternal horn of plenty with limitless bounty for all. The fact is, that my real concern -- today -- is not the past or past accomplishments of our great nation. My concern is, will we be a great and independent nation 100 years hence? Because all of you are young, because some of you may have just made your first trip to the voting booth, because all of you must live for many years with that future for better or worse, the future of our great country is doubly important to every single one of you. As young people about to become adults, I want to impress upon you today that you will have control over our country's future. You will have control over future acts of our government and you will have control over our country's destiny 100 years hence -- provided all of you and other young people like you, collectively take steps to exert that control. My concerns are many. For example, and as a starter, I have the uneasy feeling that Americans still hold to the mistaken view that our resources are limitless. The slogan -- "The Richest Nation In The World" -- has distorted our basic outlook on life. This ideology is so deep rooted in Americans that no matter how apparent a shortage may be, be it of capital, energy, food, shelter or whatever a wide-spread sense of easy fulfillment prevails. As a nation, we have overpromised ourselves material comforts and other forms of security. We have overspent in desperate attempts to bring these promises to realization and we have created generation after generation of citizens who over-expect and over-demand. Before long if you

haven't yet been shocked, you will be shocked with the amount of income tax you pay the federal government on even a modest income. So I strongly urge that you begin to watch the federal budget. In 1970 the federal government spent a 196 billion dollars. In 1977 the federal government plans to spend about 400 billion dollars, an increase of roughly 100 percent. Well lets look at just one agency of the federal government -- the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. If HEW were actually to furnish its great assortment of services to everyone entitled to receive them, its costs of operation would soar from 36 billion dollars a year to about 250 billion or about two-thirds of the present total federal budget. And HEW is committed, over-committed if you will, to providing these services. So, sooner or later, and probably sooner than we think, HEW will be trying to spend almost one-quarter of a trillion dollars a year or more, unless taxpayers everywhere wake up! No less an authority than HEW's Secretary Casper Wineberger has this to say -- more than a year ago -- about government spending, and I quote. "What we have to limit is the growth of the welfare state in America. We must summon up a common determination as a people to change drastically our present approach because it is not only not working, but it can ruin us all. Only a wave of public sentiment in this direction can give Congress the nerve to say, "No." to more social programs. As it is, Congress quite evidently believes that the road to popularity and reelection is to say -- "Yes." -- to every demand." Now, note that Mr. Wineberger called for a wave of public sentiment. Well it has not happened yet. The reason -- mass indifference. That without-limit-government spending we suffer from today runs a 180 degrees opposite to the concept of individual initiative on which this nation of ours was built and it runs 180 degrees opposite to the basic teaching most of you have had at home -- to be thrifty, to pay your own way and to save for unforeseen needs

and emergencies. When people walk around with the psychology that says, "It's out there, man and it's coming to me." Well, then the tendency is to just sit back and just let it come. I have a theory that public apathy and massive government spending go hand in hand. They feed on each other. And they stimulate and nourish each other. It follows a public that is concerned primarily with its infrequent obligation to elect government officials without any meaningful followup on their performance as public servants has, in effect, by default, enlarged the scope and power of government. With that sort of swollen mandate, elected representatives are encouraged to try to do more and control more and spend more and regulate more and to spending a lot of time and energy assuring their constituencies that they are doing a great job for the country and, of course, for their particular districts. And with this all too prevalent, freewheeling attitude, is it any wonder that 15 of the last 16 federal budgets -- including the one we are currently saddled with -- are in the red? Is it any wonder that the government is spending 40 percent of the gross national product? There are about 71 million people in the labor force in America today, but there are 80 million people receiving government checks of one kind or another. The average person is now working three and one-half months each year to support governments. In a few years, every single one of you will be enjoying that dubious privilege. And to cap it all off, next year we will see Federal spending exceeding 400 billion dollars, which means that our government will be spending at the rate of more than one billion dollars a day. How much is a billion dollars? You know a second of time is not very long and did you know that one billion seconds ago, the Japanese were bombing Pearl Harbor? Did you know that one billion minutes ago, Jesus Christ was being crucified on the cross? Did you know that one billion hours ago, man had not even set foot on the face of the earth? So isn't it shocking that in

the year 1976, one billion dollars ago is yesterday for our federal government? (Applause.) And 25 percent of that one billion dollars a day will be printing press or borrowed money. Well I am sure you will agree that this is no way to run a candy store. You know something has got to give and there are signs of it in cities, counties and states all over the country. New York is a prime example. Here is one of the leading metropolises in modern times, the financial center of our nation, the communication center, the art and culture center, the home of the United Nations, a city of seven and a half million people, the third most populated urban complex in the world and -- it is going broke. And despite one rescue operation by the federal government the fault remains ever imminent for New York City. The point is that they have flagrantly overspent their resources in recent years. And New York is only the tip of the iceberg. Other municipal and state governments as well are in trouble. It does seem odd doesn't it, that in the greatest capitalistic country in the history of the world, where presumably the management of money has advanced to the highest level, a major city can be threatened with bankruptcy? No, it is not really so odd at all. Why? Because government at all levels has lagged so far behind accepted business and accounting practices it is no longer funny. There is an unconscionable, in fact, immoral dual standard in the way government manages its fiscal responsibilities in America. The immoral behavior of government is a vivid contrast to the high standards imposed upon business by government. One of the unfortunate differences between a profit making corporation and the government entity is that business operates on a carefully accounted for accrual basis, while our various governments, local, state and federal pursue a helter-skelter cash-flow strategy. Governments have deluded themselves for years into believing that the taxpayer has an unlimited bank account. Thus, they have piled up liabilities upon liabilities far into the

future. Through pension funds and other commitments thinking that when the time comes they will just raise taxes to cover the need for cash. But the fact is that taxes are becoming so astronomical in many areas that any additional taxation merely eats into the tax base by driving taxpayers away and thus, tax revenues flatten out despite higher tax rates. It is that old law of diminishing returns. This is at the heart of the financial problems of New York and other cities. Now, they are looking to the federal government for salvation but in case you don't know it, the federal government is in the same predicament, the only difference being that the federal government has a printing press. They can print money. Now lets get back to the public apathy and its unexpected affect of increasing government expenditures. What happens when the public abdicates its responsibility is that smaller groups of highly vocal activists march in and fill the gap. You know, there is a vicious cycle at work there. Elected officials because they want to keep their jobs look to their own constituencies for a great deal of legislative direction. In the absence of any forceful communication from their constituents they respond to demands from other sources that they often mistake for the kind of public sentiment that Mr. Wineberger referred to. Thus, the power of organized activists in modern society has grown to really worrisome proportions. Such groups as ecologists and conservationists, consumer organizations, women-libbers and others may have just a kernel or so of validity to their protests and claims. But a good many of our lawmakers seem willing to suspend their better judgment in matters of national interest, in order to advance legislation that satisfies only these smaller groups. This is government by decibels. The louder you scream, the more Congress will spend for your particular cause. A notable example is the influence of the labor unions in the United States. When you consider that about one-fifth -- I said, one-fifth -- only of all workers

belong to the unions and you weigh this against the power unions have today, then it should be clear that something is seriously out of whack. (Applause.) It used to be the popular concensus that unions were the good guys and corporations were the bad guys and the fat cats; but look at New York. The City is going broke and it is the unions with their non-stop escalating contracts and their vast pension funds who have become the fat cats. (Applause.) The alacrity with which elected representatives respond to the whims and demands of isolated voters and many groups in our society, is also a measure of our recent decline in stature on the international scene. While overall government spending continues to accelerate, defense spending has declined dangerously. Ten years ago the military was allocated about 40 percent of the national budget. Today, our armed forces receive about a quarter of the budget. The policy of detente, where we aim especially to please the Russians, has resulted in a slow but sure wrecking of our world position, while the Russian side builds and builds its strength. Whereas once we were masters of the sea, for example, there are many nowadays who believe we are no longer a match for the Soviet Navy. Now mind you, I fully believe in the American way of government representing the people, but first -- you know -- the people have got to be heard and second, their representatives must be enlightened enough to place priorities in proper order. When you have an irresponsible Congress responsive to any and all demands then neither of the principals are operative. What you have is convenience politics and nowhere is it more evident than in our energy policy which is still a non-policy three years after the Arab Oil Embargo. The nation needs energy and we have got to develop every possible energy resource so that we will not be at the mercy of OPEC price hikes, embargos or other threats. You see the energy thing is fundamentally a question of international policy but our johnny-come-lately instant energy experts in Washington,

from the heavy energy consuming states insist on narrowly seeing it as a matter of inconvenience to their respective constituencies. Vocal, local groups want a limitless supply of energy at low prices. They want clean air, pure oceans, restricted mining. They want a continued high standard of living. There is a super-abundance of demands these days, founded on the myth of unlimited availabilities. And, of course, our Congress has appointed themselves the dispensers of this generosity, instead of leveling with the voters they are appeasing them. Instead of asking for restraint for meaningful conservation, they block virtually every proposal aimed at building up our domestic energy supplies and diminishing our costly habit-forming oil imports. Well, of course, there has to be a scapegoat to absorb the frustrations and failures of society, of government, of a Pollyanna outlook that manages inevitably to open Pandora's box of trouble. Okay. But no ordinary scapegoat will do because there are endless complaints and accusations. The scapegoat selected is often one without any real friends, one without a constituency base, the American corporation, or so-called big business. So, it has become the vogue to rap business for everything -- too many profits, too little profits, oversupplying the market, undersupplying the market, overcharging and dumping, you name it and we have done it. You see government fundamentally needs this rationale in order to regulate and over-regulate private enterprise. The erroneous perspective of our Congress is to provide liberal doses of aspirin and other panaceas for the people. And since overspending is beginning to produce some national regurgitation the logical thing is to beat up big business. You happen to know the three most economically plagued industries in America today? They happen to be the railroads, the airlines and the utilities. And do you happen to know the three industries that are most tightly regulated by the government? You guessed it -- I am sure, the railroads, the airlines and the utilities.



And now they are trying to over-regulate the oil industry. The regulatory bureaucracy is massive, costly and dubiously staffed, if not to say, inept. The cost to the private enterprise and the public sector is horrendous. It is standard operating procedure to have to devote valuable man-hours to the preparation of reports, filing applications, completing questionnaires, responding to countless orders and directives and often appearing and appealing in the courts regarding confusing and conflicting regulations and their interpretations. My own company spends more than a half a million dollars a year keeping up with just one regulatory agency, the Federal Energy Administration. Certainly, capitalism has made a strong contribution to our past achievements; so what are we doing? We are daily maligning for all the world to see the very system that has helped so much to make us great. Free enterprise is under attack these days and it is not a matter to take lightly. Unfortunately, for business it has largely ignored these attacks in the past. Fortunately, American businessmen and businessmen throughout the world are now waking up to the threat. It is significant, I think, that the 25th Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce, held in Australia last year, devoted several sessions to the wave of criticism directed at the free enterprise system and the general failure of the business community to adequately inform the public of the aims and benefits of corporate operations and competitive activities. Now the U. S. Chamber of Commerce today, has a number of new programs designed to educate the public. One of them is a kit for distribution to secondary schools entitled: "Economics For Young Americans". It contains informative filmstrips, tape recordings, scripts and teachers' guides explaining what our economic system is all about. There is hope but we need a lot, a great deal of reeducation and reorientation at the grass roots levels. Why you know even the word profit has become a bugaboo in places. Many people think corporation profits

are gobbling up 20, 30 and 40 percent of the sales dollar. Did you know that in a typical year 40 percent (40 percent) of all active U. S. corporations don't earn a single penny of profit and that the average margin of profit is about 6 cents or less on each dollar of sales. Sadly, we are witnessing an era in which many of our institutions are eroding and the right to pursue private enterprise, free enterprise is one of them. I think it is possible to stem the tide but it has to begin with the people. Just like the attack on individual business initiative there is an insidious attack today on individual political initiative. The feeling around is that no one vote, the effort of no citizen will make any difference so why bother. You are all young and I want to warn you, you had better begin bothering and further I want to tell you in all sincerity and candor, you had better do a better job of bothering than your parents and grandparents have. If our heritage, political and economic means anything at all in this period of bicentennial observances, then it surely means the individual in America is vital to the continued progress and growth of America. But it is absolutely essential for individual Americans to make themselves heard in Washington. As simple an act as writing a letter is meaningful and I urge you to dedicate yourself to writing letters to your congressmen and senators. One a month to each of them would be great and appeal to your parents, friends and neighbors to do likewise. You have a tremendous stake in the future, not just for yourselves, but for your future children and grandchildren. On any particular issue those letters will be read and those letters will be counted. Don't leave it to the highly organized, high-decibel activist groups to fill the void that exists in mass communication to our legislators. Those of us who believe in America have got to let those people in Washington know how we stand. In closing, I would like to quote Thomas Jefferson, not just once but twice. And the first quote: "Agriculture,

manufacture, commerce and navigation, the four pillars of our prosperity are the most thriving when left to individual enterprise." Well obviously Mr. Jefferson was referring to free enterprise. And Thomas Jefferson also said, about 200 years ago and I quote: "The good sense of the people will always be found to be the best army. The people may be led astray for a moment but they will soon correct themselves." Well I think here Mr. Jefferson was talking about the ultimate sound judgment of Americans everywhere. So, our task this year, next year and for the next hundred years is to record our sound judgment as Americans, loudly and clearly and to prove Mr. Jefferson right. The tide can be turned in America and in our government but it is up to you, not your friends, not your neighbors, it is up to each and everyone of you personally to practice good citizenship, to vote regularly, to write your congressman and senators regularly and to make these practices a regular part of your daily life. (Applause.)

OR: Thank you, Bob. Would you go down the steps out here in front in case some of the kids would like to meet you and ask you a question or two or make a comment? We would appreciate that. Young men and women and faculty and staff, what happens tomorrow night at 7:30 in Mabee Center? (basketball) We are going to have a basketball game against the Canadian Nationals. Lets give our team a great hand. And I intend to be there, how about you? All right! Lets go! Remember the speeches are available outside the building as you leave. Please stand with us.

And now, may the blessings of the Lord be upon your life and keep you through this day. And may your own free spirit rise to the challenge that our speaker, Bob Thomas, has given us. May God be with us in all our endeavors, we pray,