President Kennedy Congratulates MIT In A Centennial Message

The following is a statement, pre-recorded by President John F. Kennedy and heard by guests at the MIT Centennial Banquet at the Statler Hilton Hotel, April 8.

"It is a source of great satisfaction to me as a resident of Massachusetts and as President of the United States to join in saluting the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on its one hundredth anniversary. MIT began as an institution designed to serve the needs of our society at an early stage of its industrialization. It is also a matter of pride that MIT, like the land grant colleges, was assisted in its early days by funds under the Morrill Act, passed during the administration of President Lincoln. As American society has developed, MIT, from its initial commitments, has also developed. From a school designed to train railway, mining and civil engineers, it evolved with the technical needs of our society into a great scientific university.

More than that, it accepted the fact that modern science must bring its results to bear in a human, settling and it has developed its study of man and societies.

Finally, it realized that the needs of the United States involves not only as a nation but as part of the world community. The men of MIT (and two of them now serve on the White House staff—Prof. Winjem as the Scientific Advisor to the President, Prof. Boston as an assistant on international security matters) have made striking contributions, not only to national security but also to the cause of economic development and to the cause of arms control and disarmament and peace.

"We live at a time when the old international tradition of the university is uniquely important. The western universities originally derived their international tradition from their connection with the church. They now derive it because the world of ideas and the world of science are essentially international. If we are to produce the kind of world required for the safety and well-being of the human beings who live in it, we must build on this international tradition. We must develop a community of view among men and nations in the world community. The men of MIT, like the land grant colleges, were assisted in its early days by funds under the Morrill Act, passed during the administration of President Lincoln. As American society has developed, MIT, from its initial commitments, has also developed. From a school designed to train railway, mining and civil engineers, it evolved with the technical needs of our society into a great scientific university.

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