

Waclaw Jedrzejewicz

Mr. President, I have the honor and privilege to present to you as a candidate for an honorary degree Waclaw Jedrzejewicz, who has turned from public affairs of international importance to become a teacher, and a humanistic one in the truest sense of the term.

Born in Poland, he was a pioneer and an early champion of Polish aviation. He served fifteen years in the Polish Army, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the General Staff, and earning a host of Polish Military honors. He has served his country as Military Attache in Tokyo, and as Polish Minister to Japan. He has been Director of the Consular Department in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and has twice held portfolio in his country's Cabinet, as Minister of Education and Vice-Minister of Finance.

Unable to serve his country further when it fell under Communist domination, he turned his rich abilities and his wide experience to teaching. From 1948 to 1958, he taught at Wellesley, where he was Chairman of the Russian Department. Now he is at Ripon College, and a John Hay Whitney Fellow.

Apparently his teaching is magnetic, for faculty and students alike crowd his classes. Certainly it is humanistic. It is his deep conviction that Americans in Ripon and everywhere else must study about Russia, that they must learn her history, her language, her culture, and the strangely amoral and imperialistic philosophy by which her government lives. In short, as with all great teachers, his teaching is the fruit of his wide experience and his own deep convictions and, again like all great teachers, he teaches to better the lives of his students.

Therefore, on behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that upon him be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Letters.