

Elliot Lee Richardson

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree, ELLIOT LEE RICHARDSON, lawyer, statesman, distinguished servant of the nation both here and abroad, and unyielding advocate of excellence and integrity. Through his public life and service, he embodies the Commencement theme, "The College and the Community," in its broadest dimension.

A son of Harvard where his early career included drawing cartoons for the Lampoon, Mr. Richardson has clearly demonstrated that a liberally educated person can do any job well. Whether as law clerk for Learned Hand and Felix Frankfurter, practicing lawyer, First Lieutenant in the Fourth Infantry Division, or in high offices in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the federal government, or, more recently, a representative of the United States in ambassadorial assignments, Mr. Richardson has exhibited intelligence, imagination, vitality, and courage.

His several contributions to state and nation have included service as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare during which tour of duty he wrote the National Defense Education Act; the United States Attorney for Massachusetts and later that state's Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General; Under-secretary of State, during which time he took an active part in the negotiations that attended the United States-Soviet Strategic Arms Limitations Talks; Secretary of Commerce; Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; and Attorney General of the United States at a time when this nation faced a crisis of confidence. His actions, under stress, "redeemed the time."

More recently, first as Ambassador to the Court of St. James, and now as Ambassador-at-Large and Special Representative of the President at the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Mr. Richardson has used his mastery of the complexity of foreign policy, his keen intellect, and his superlative administrative skill in the service of the United States in the community of nations.

Kalamazoo College honors itself in honoring a distinguished public servant who exemplifies in his life and work the diversity, excellence, and commitment to which the liberal arts are dedicated.

I recommend, therefore, on behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, that upon ELLIOT LEE RICHARDSON be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws.