

E. Mandell de Windt

Mr. President, I have the honor and privilege of presenting E. MANDELL DE WINDT, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Eaton Corporation, as a candidate for an honorary degree.

An alumnus of Berkshire School and Williams College, Mr. de Windt has spent his entire career with Eaton, beginning in the Battle Creek engine valve plant. Through his professional life he has become known as an effective and dynamic manager, as an articulate spokesman for the enlightened role that corporations can play in the vitality of our society, and as an ardent supporter of international corporate relationships that are not constrained by differences in language, marketing or business practices. When Mr. de Windt was named chairman of Eaton in 1969, he abolished his own former position of vice president-international and pledged to operate the company as if there were no international boundaries, believing in the ultimate benefit of full cross-fertilization of technical and personnel resources. His was the concept of the "World Company" that gave full recognition to using "the best talents to their best advantage regardless of the nationality of those talents." For his commitment to internationalism he has been named Commander of the Order of the British Empire and Commendatore of the Italian Republic.

Mr. de Windt's life has also been marked by creative and effective citizenship that reflects his concern for changes that will better all our lives. He has served in leadership capacities of such diverse organizations as Cleveland Educational TV, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the United Way of America, and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. His service has been recognized through his receiving several outstanding awards, including the Human Relations Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Management Social Responsibility Award of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change. His life serves as an important model for all of us. The Kalamazoo community and Kalamazoo College have benefited enormously by the presence here of a major facility of the company he heads.

Therefore, on behalf of the faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that upon E. MANDELL DE WINDT be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws.