

Comm '58

FREDERICK OLIVER PINKHAM

Vigorous exponent of the liberal arts, dedicated teacher, educator, alumnus, offspring of an esteemed son and Trustee of Kalamazoo College.

In 1942 called from this campus, without benefit of his commencement, but with granted diploma and teaching certificate, he served in the European Theater of Operations until 1945, earning both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. During these war years his conviction in the power of education to form a better world deepened. In his words, "It falls upon education to produce the intelligent citizenry upon which our way of life depends. The good life hinges upon the liberation of the mind, and soul, and body. Real freedom grows on faith. No man is free who is afraid."

Stanford University granted him the Master's degree and the Doctorate in Education in 1950. The post of assistant to the President of George Washington University called him to our Nation's capital. As executive Director of the Commission on Accrediting, his energies were bent in the direction of unifying accrediting standards in universities and colleges.

In 1955, called to head Ripon College, whose endowment since that time has doubled, he became, at the age of thirty five, one of the country's youngest college presidents. A leader in the work of the Ripon Congregational Church, of which he is a trustee, in constant demand as a speaker, active as a member of the Young Presidents Organization, Rotary, Phi Delta Kappa, and the recipient of an honorary degree from Lawrence College, his leadership has been characterized by strength, courage and intellectual honesty in holding fast to, and furthering, his ideals of the liberal arts tradition.

Because of his steadfast accomplishments, it is a rare pleasure, Mr. President, on this auspicious 125th anniversary, to present to you for his long delayed commencement, FREDERICK OLIVER PINKHAM and to recommend, in behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, that he be awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws.