

Scholarship Day
1970

John Robert Silber

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree JOHN ROBERT SILBER, scholar, teacher, educator. His undergraduate concentration in philosophy and fine arts at Trinity University, his work in biblical studies at Yale Divinity School, his study of legal method at the Texas School of Law, and his graduate work in philosophy at Yale University attest to the breadth of his knowledge and intellectual concerns. His manifold publications on Kant's moral philosophy and his work as editor of *Kant Studien* attest to the depth and energy of his scholarship. Recognized as a distinguished teacher by the Harbison Award, recognized as an educational leader by his appointment as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Texas, Mr. Silber has continually challenged students and faculty alike to face truth and fight for justice.

As a moral philosopher whose practical reason is rooted in a deep respect for rational man, Mr. Silber has been an articulate foe of totalitarianism both on the right and on the left. He has stood plainly and persuasively for human rights: the right of professors to bring critical judgment to bear upon the society which supports them; the right of students to find respect and significance in the universities which envelop them; the right of the poor and the powerless to be given justice by the affluent and the powerful who oppress them.

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