

# BROOKLYN COLLEGE IS HAILED BY MAYOR

At Opening, He Tells in Ironic  
Vein How Ingersoll 'Picketed'  
Him for New Campus

SAYS 'BLUFF' WON GRANT

Also Used His 'Prerogative' of  
Losing Temper—Eisner and  
Other Leaders Speak

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Brooklyn College started its eighth academic year yesterday with classes meeting for the first time on the new campus and in the college's own building at Avenue H and Bedford Avenues, Brooklyn. Mayor La Guardia, Borough President Raymond V. Ingersoll, Mark Eisner of the Board of Higher Education, President William A. Boylan and Dr. Arthur M. Howe greeted the students in an informal dedication. Formal dedication will take place later.

The exercises were held on a platform at the entrance to the academic building with the students crowded into the quadrangle. The Mayor gave a gently ironic lecture on the practical politics of getting a new college built.

He told of appearing at the first commencement of Brooklyn College in 1934, only to learn that it was the beginning of a drive for the college to have its own home.

## Ingersoll "Picketed" Mayor

"Raymond Ingersoll started the picket at the Mayor's office," he explained, adding, "You know that is how everything is done nowadays; meetings, resolutions, petitions and then picketing. We went through the usual procedure in the Board of Estimate over the choice of a site.

"Then the Mayor exercised one of his prerogatives—one that is very much advertised these days—he lost his temper. That is what I always do when I need to get something done. It snapped through the Board of Estimate just like that," the Mayor said, with an illustrative snap of the fingers.

"Then I went to Mr. Eisner and said, 'Bring me the plans.' But there were no plans. I read in the papers," he continued, dropping his voice, "that the Mayor does things in disregard of the law. Well, I plead guilty in this instance. I did.

"I went to the architects—and they were very good about it. I told them what we wanted and said that if we got the money they would get paid, if we didn't they would have a nice set of plans for themselves.

"Then I hustled to Washington with the plans. They were incomplete plans so I kept them folded. Nobody looks at plans down there anyway. We were sitting around the table discussing the grant of money. The work had to be done in a year.

The Mayor then recalled the cornerstone laying, which President Roosevelt attended, and said that as he entered the car to drive away the President surveyed the excavations and remarked, "Is this the group of buildings you are going to complete on one year?" "Oh, yes," and he gave me absolution then.

"I had my doubts, but we bluffed it through and we got it done."

The Mayor then paid tribute to the faculty saying that "after all it is the faculty that makes a college and not the buildings." He said that Brooklyn College had a faculty second to none.

Borough President Ingersoll also referred to the struggles to obtain the new buildings and campus and reviewed some of the fight over sites.