Presentation of
THE PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

to
Francis P. Kilcoyne
upon his retirement from
Brooklyn College
of
The City University of New York

December 12, 1967

Remarks by:
Albert H. Bowker, Chancellor, City University of NY;
Porter R. Chandler, Chairman, Board of Higher Edu-
cation, City of New York; Mary S. Ingraham, Chair-
man, the Board's Committee for Brooklyn College.
REMARKS
By
DR. FRANCIS P. KILCOYNE
President of
Brooklyn College

On the eve of a man's departure from the scene which has occupied much of his life there is a natural tendency to refer to the past and more especially to consider the future of this scene.
In terms of the past this college was a depression creature. So also its early student body, its staffs. We were limited enough in numbers to be able to know one another.
In 1930 when we were weaned from our parent institutions, City and Hunter colleges, the process was gradual. We did not at first become coeducational; the term was coordinated. And just for the arithmetic of the matter, in 1930 the instructional staff consisted of 224 members. In 1967 the staff is comprised of 1,063 members.
Instructional departments then numbered 15, today there are 22 including the Library and Student Services. The Department of Public Speaking, e.g., has become the Department of Speech and Theatre. Obviously the total number of courses has increased and the number of students therein. In addition we offer the master's and doctor's degrees.
Then space was a problem in the five buildings in which we rented the commodity. Today space is a problem in the buildings we own. Then the problem was vehicular and pedestrian traffic under the "L"; today it is parking without an "L."

Then we served society chiefly through the preparation of teachers because we had a rough time gaining recognition for our premeds and prelegal luminaries. Today we continue to prepare teachers and we know that at least 95% of those we recommend to medical schools are accepted. But as a pretty much traditional arts and sciences institution we are not, in a term, fully activist in relation to society's problems as we view them in our urban society.
In our structure we are equipped primarily to teach and to engage in research. But we are not yet fully equipped to send out teams into problem areas of society, areas which demand solutions, areas in which the needs of education at all levels are crucial. We know there are youngsters with potential. Some have been found through the University's SEEK program. Obviously no favor will be done these young men and women if we put them immediately into classes with those who meet our entrance yardsticks. The challenge remains: how to find them and how to prepare them for the investment of the ability which is theirs.
Much ground has been covered since the Land Grant colleges, authorized in 1862, really started to find themselves in 1900. Our society is no longer as heavily agricultural as it was then when those colleges related themselves directly to the needs of that society. We know that today many institutions manage large scale scientific, technological and social enterprises. Their budgets are heavily financed from government agencies and private enterprise. The problem seems to be how far an institution should go in making its resources available for a variety of public service activities.
That basic question faces most institutions and, in a special way, those in our cities and large urban areas. The City University has made a start in several of its areas of responsibility. So, too, have private institutions in this and other large urban sections.
The demand on The City University and its units will not lessen. We cannot surrender our standards of excellence while we seek means of meeting the needs of young citizens with potential. Today, most of the young men and women with potential cannot act freely to invest it. Economic and social conditions repress them. And those repressed are both black and white.
Time passes swiftly and losses mount. In the 1930's our students were the underprivileged—with potential. We found a way to nourish and develop that potential because we believed in the inherent dignity of those entrusted to us. We must continue to believe in and sustain that human dignity, now our concern in others.
REMARKS

By

DR. ALBERT BOWKER
Chancellor of
The City University

If I should be asked to characterize the Kilcoyne era, a span of time covering almost four decades that has seen the college grow from inception to a thriving metropolitan institution, I would answer in one word, with no intention of wordplay: Frankness.

For in his various capacities at Brooklyn College as scholar, teacher, dean and president, he has always evinced a clear and obvious preference for the actual, as opposed to the apparent, truth in any and every context.

An institution served by such a man must take on, in many ways, his own personal qualities and characteristics. I have no doubt that most of the qualities that embody the spirit of Brooklyn College are due, in whole or part, to the constant efforts of President Kilcoyne towards excellence and quality. His style has already left an unalterable imprint on the college, one that will far outlast his own era.

Brooklyn College as it stands today bespeaks the quality of his leadership, a tribute more enduring than any words.

Let me conclude by taking this opportunity to add my thanks to those of the many for his years of dedicated service to Brooklyn College and the City University, thanks on my own behalf and on behalf of the entire Administrative Council.
REMARKS
By
MR. PORTER CHANDLER
Chairman of
The Board of Higher Education

The early history of Brooklyn College might well be called "The Kilcoyne Era." From instructor to president, Frank Kilcoyne's career spans a period of shifting crises in the nation's welfare, in student thought and commitment, and in community-college relations.

Through those 37 years, the balanced solution, the steady persistence, the penetrating analysis, the leavening, sometimes searing humor of Kilcoyne—came to be regarded as one of the natural resources of Brooklyn College and of the City University. There were 2,600 students who made up the first student body of Brooklyn College, created as the depression got under way. There were 5,000 full-time students alone when the beautiful Georgian campus, built with W.P.A. funds, was occupied in 1937. There are 29,000 today.

The supportive strength of Frank Kilcoyne was there through the critical period of World War II, the community worry over possible left wing campus influence, the Korean War, and the current stress of the Vietnam action.

The supportive strength of Frank Kilcoyne was there when Brooklyn College was early accepted into the academic community, when 2,100 graduates went on to earn Ph.D.'s, when the college increased current sponsored research to more than $1,000,000, when the college began the vast $56,000,000 building program to take it into the 1970's and 80's.

To Frank Kilcoyne and to Eleanor Marie Kilcoyne, a Brooklyn College celebrity in her own right, I express my gratitude as a citizen of the great city of New York and as a member of the Board of Higher Education, and express my best wishes for a happy retirement.

REMARKS
By
DR. MARY S. INGRAHAM
Chairman of
The Brooklyn College Committee of
The Board of Higher Education

For a quarter of a century or so Francis P. Kilcoyne was, in my book, that big tall man with sandy hair, blue eyes and a kindly and embracing smile. He was a most welcome speaker on any and all occasions because of his wit and common sense. Of course I knew the positions he held, had some knowledge of the responsibilities they entailed and was very conscious of his loyalty to the administration and to the college. It came as no surprise that he was chosen to be Acting President when Harry Gideonse retired. And now with a two-year perspective I believe, most sincerely, that this action will be recorded in the annals of the college as having been of unique significance and long-lasting value.

In the sequence of events it was timely and fitting that after a year and a half of sound and creative leadership with no pressure on President Kilcoyne's part—as a matter of fact he went out of his way to tell us he felt it to be no appreciable handicap to administer his responsibilities with the title of Acting President—he was however in June of this year—1967—elected by the Board of Higher Education of The City University of New York, the third president of Brooklyn College. By so honoring Francis P. Kilcoyne the Board honored itself.

I feel rather sad today, glad of course of this occasion and to be here with you but a bit depressed by the significance of the occasion in the light of its timing. President Kilcoyne is not only about to step down from his post of leadership but away—at his own request—from active participation in the daily life and heartbeats of this college to which he has contributed so generously of his mind and spirit for almost forty years. I consider it to have been a rare privilege to have had the opportunity to work with Francis for two of these years. A warm friendship has developed between us, and if I may speak quite frankly, it is an unique and refreshing experience to acquire a new friend at my ripe old age.

I have become aware of President Kilcoyne's unusual sensitiveness to human frailties and his ability to respond to human needs. Our students are not statistics but individuals and so also are the members of the staffs of this big college body. We wish the Good Lord had seen fit not to have broken the die when he made you—This wish is unanimous.