

Juan Trippe and Lawrence Kimpton speak at the commencement exercises at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska on May 23, 1966

Part of the series: University of Alaska Fairbanks commencement addresses and exercises

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James Lardwin, S.J. gave the invocation

William Wood introduced Juan Trippe.

Juan Trippe talked about graduation day and its significance. One of the student's responsibilities is seeing that education is made available to the lesser developed parts of the world. They were fortunate to be citizens of Alaska. Alaska has tremendous natural resources including fishing, logging, and oil and gas resources. The resources will provide tremendous opportunities to the people of Alaska. He believes tourism will be an important part of Alaska's economy. The air travel potential has been relatively untouched. It all started in 1924 when Ben Eielson and Noel Wien first started to fly. A group of pilots organized and started the Alaska Air Transport. It was a Delaware corporation and they hoped to carry mail in Alaska. Several contracts for mail were taken over by Alaska Air Transport. Ben Eielson worked for this corporation. This was in 1924-25. There was no air transport in this hemisphere at that time. The postmaster general decided to undertake an experimental air service in the United States. They transported air mail. There was no technology to help them along the way. The Alaska Air Transport became the Colonial Air Transport. They had the number one air mail contract in the lower forty eight. After the company did not expand a dozen of the pilots left the company and organized Pan American Airways in 1927. Pacific Alaska Airways started in 1932. Several years later twin engine airplanes arrived in Alaska. The first jet transport arrived in 1960. Today Alaska is served by many airlines. He sees more progress in the next ten years. He sees more cargo shipments using larger aircraft. He also thinks supersonic aircraft will be flying to Alaska in the near future. He talked about the importance of transportation to the state of Alaska.

William Wood introduced Lawrence Kimpton.