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David Cowie delivers the baccalaureate address at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska in 1959

Series title: University of Alaska Fairbanks commencement addresses and exercises

University of Alaska Fairbanks

A second recording can be heard on the last half of the recording.

Dr. Dave Cowie welcomes guests and graduates. Dr. Cowie talked about his recent trip to India. He said this is the first graduating class in the state of Alaska. He reminded people that there were new nations in the world in the past fifteen years. He believes that Africa will no longer have colonialism in the next fifteen years. The U.S. had its revolution and this caused the peoples of the world to realize that there is such a thing for people in colonialism. Spiritual freedom was another factor that resulted in democracy. He saw refugees around the world escaping the oppression of communism and the marginal living they had. There were one million refugees in Calcutta alone. There are still displaced persons in Europe from WWII and this has brought about a seething feeling of revolution. They know there is a better life and why should they be in the situation they find themselves in. He believes there is also a spiritual vacuum. He asks the graduates what they have to meet this world which will meet its needs. He talked about the disciples that went out to face a world in turmoil. It was a world of political and economic revolution. Some ended up in a pioneer area called Antioch. It was here they were first called Christians or little Christ. They were associated with one that had been their teacher. They met the challenges of our present-day world. Dr. Cowie tells a story about prejudice and misunderstanding. He said the disciples went out to do something about hate in the world. He stated that there is a need for statesmanship and not just politics. He said the United States has a debt to the rest of the world. He told a story about going to a village in southern India. He walked into a communist cell meeting, was asked to donate and ended up talking about his religion. He talked about going out in the world and being a witness to the people. He was concerned about the world seeing a motion-picture version of the United States. It is a frontier to sell that which has made America great.

Dr. Patty thanked Dr. Cowie for his address. He invited everyone to participate in the university arts festival.