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Leo O'Brien and Edward Teller speak at the commencement exercises at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Alaska in 1959

Series title: University of Alaska Fairbanks commencement addresses and exercises

University of Alaska Fairbanks

First fifteen minutes of tape is a recording of a University Drama Workshop production.

Opening prayer for the 37<sup>th</sup> annual commencement. Dr. Patty introduces Congressman Leo W. O'Brien from New York. He was a champion for Alaska statehood. Leo O'Brien gives credit to Secretary Seward and Fred Seaton. He said it was an honor to address the first graduating class in the state of Alaska. He first visited Alaska in 1955 to investigate the readiness of the territory of Alaska for statehood. The House of Representatives had killed a bill granting statehood to Alaska and Hawaii just a few months before his trip. He said he was indifferent to statehood for Alaska when he first became a congressman. He discussed control of mental health issues in Alaska. There were many misconceptions about Alaska. He became resolved to gain statehood for Alaska. He said Alaska within the lifetime of the current graduates will be one of the greatest and richest states of them all. He said a nation to survive must never cease growing.

Dr. Edward Teller talks his work and the impact on the future of Alaska and the use of nuclear power. He talked about making nuclear explosions cleaner and cleaner. They can be controlled with meticulous caution. He said his fellow workers are careful and cautious. He envisions not too far off in the future to use nuclear explosions which he calls the art of geographical engineering. He talked about learning to live with this new source of power. He discussed the use of nuclear energy to destroy life. He proposes using nuclear energy to make a harbor to export coal to Japan. Japan would be the first beneficiary of atomic explosion as they have been the first victims of nuclear explosions. The explosions in Japan have created a picture of nuclear explosions in many minds of things that might come. He said we are the "haves" in a sea of the "have-nots" and we have responsibilities.