

00-00-54

Ernest Patty's retirement ceremony in Fairbanks, Alaska in 1960

A member of the Board of Regents (Elmer Rasmuson?) talked about Dr. Patty. His idealism and dedication to the cause of education made his acceptance of the university president's position his duty. There is no need to catalog his achievements. The end product is the expanded student body. His personality has had an impact on all those he leaves to carry on. They retain forever his noble spirit. His boundless energy sets the pace for those who follow. He is a practical dreamer whose visions have been translated into action. He has evaluated every project first and foremost in its human terms. The board of regents honors Dr. Patty and does not close its official connection. He reads a resolution which also is directed at Mrs. Patty because of her inspiration and help: Whereas Dr. Ernest N. Patty has been an educator, builder and planner and has significantly advanced the cause of higher education through serving as a member of the University of Alaska faculty for thirteen years and as president for seven years. And whereas the university experienced its greatest period of growth under his dedicated and competent leadership and whereas the board of regents consistently have found Dr. Patty to display the finest spirit of cooperation, harmony and enthusiasm for carrying out the duties and responsibilities of his office. And whereas Dr. Patty has worked diligently, courageously and boldly to build the University of Alaska which now exists as a permanent tribute to his vision, determination and ability, therefore be it resolved that the board of regents express its deep appreciation to Dr. Ernest N. Patty for the great contributions he has made to Alaska and the United States as president of the University of Alaska. And be it further resolved that the board of regents in recognition of the numerous contributions which Dr. Patty has made and as evidence of their desire that his identification with the university be continued do hereby appoint Dr. Ernest N. Patty as president emeritus of the University of Alaska. This resolution that he has just read has been signed by all the regents and will be presented in a scroll to Dr. and Mrs. Patty.

Dr. Patty said he had a brief swan song. He said the metamorphosis at the university cannot be attributed to one man. He said Mrs. Patty has constantly worked at his side and there are many others. He said he had a fine board of regents that worked with him. He inherited a fine faculty and has increased salaries for the still underpaid faculty. He praised his faculty. He said it was destiny that had him accept the position at the university. It was satisfying to work with the students who will be the future leaders of the state. He said they must look down the road. It is a close of an era but there is a brighter era ahead. This campus must always be a place for courage and daring. He sees an era when the university will gain national recognition and it will play a more important part for the state. He sees the enrollment increasing over the next years. The last legislature has authorized the Institute of Marine Science and Dr. Patty talked about its importance. He sees this farthest north university should be the authority in the arctic and subarctic. It is now receiving grants from several organizations and backing from the state legislature. Instead of being known as the Fairbanks college we are now known as the university for all Alaska. He has sought to develop a multi-form dynamic university with a vital outreach to

the state of Alaska. He said it will continue to be exciting to watch the University of Alaska from the sidelines.

Alaska song is sung. Prayer.