

00-00-56 SIDE A

Robert Shaw and James Doolittle speak at the commencement ceremonies at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska on May 27, 1963

Series title: University of Alaska Fairbanks commencement addresses and exercises

The commencement ceremonies start with a prayer.

Dr. Wood talked about the power of music. He introduces Robert Shaw who directed the Anchorage Festival of Music. Robert Shaw talked about what the teacher and the conductor have in common. He told a story about a family trip to Cleveland and a recent attendance at a long graduation in Pomona, California. He commented on the liberal arts degree and the place of art in the world.

Dr. Wood introduces James Doolittle. James Doolittle said he would use this platform to look at the past. He said he lived in Nome as a youngster. He left Nome in 1908 and didn't return until 1948. He was amazed how the area had changed. He wanted to speak of the past in a national sense. By looking at the past we can gain a clearer insight into the future. The United States has shown a political stability since the end of the Civil War. He said Alaska has inherited the glorious past of the United States as well as the dangers. Because of its location Alaska is in the forefront of these dangers. Here in the north we are at the crossroads, in the uneasy frontier of the east and west. Frontier does not apply to modern Alaska. Nothing is primitive about its defenses and nothing is simple about its political, military, economic complex of problems. The word frontier applies to the quality of its people who are willing to come here and endure the dangers and challenges of this area. Basically it is the profound conviction that Alaska has a new and growing importance. Alaska is a land of opportunities. Certainly this is true of defense applications. Alaska's number one industry is defense of our country. Hap Arnold said Alaska has always been a high priority. Billy Mitchell said he who holds Alaska holds the world. Alaska's importance isn't just the military. Energy from oil and coal with the help of technology will unlock Alaska's tremendous resources. Communication systems will link this state to the rest of the union and the world. The Great Circle route is important for transportation and military concerns. James Doolittle said the graduating class is on the frontline of the Cold War. It dates back to 1850. He talks about Marx, Lenin and Stalin. The Soviet threat is unchanged and very real, it is not the primary danger, but rather it is within ourselves. Our national strength is within our people. We must dedicate

ourselves to higher ideals, morality, hard work, sacrifice and patriotism. We have had it easy in the United States. He makes a plea for excellence that is sharpened in the university. The greatest enemy to our way of life is mediocrity. He quotes Herbert Hoover on leadership and Douglas MacArthur's quote, duty, honor, country.