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Library Seminar, 5/1/70

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Marshal Bill Cashen welcomes the audience to the unveiling of the bronze statue of the late Bob Bartlett. Mr. Cashen had thought that this was the first bronze state to be given to the University of Alaska Fairbanks and had intended to say, "We at the university are indeed pleased that this first bronze honors one of our first students who later became our first senior senator from the state of Alaska." Unfortunately, he says, he checked his facts and Mr. Beistline informed him that this is the second bronze to be presented to the University. The first was of Felix Pedro, a gift from Italy on the 50th anniversary of the discovery of gold in Fairbanks in 1952.

Mr. Cashen introduces Dr. Mary Hale, Mrs. Doris Ann Riley, who is Bob Bartlett's daughter, Mr. William A. O'Neill, Mrs. Rae Reedy(?), Mrs. Edith Bullock, Mr. Brian Brundin, Dr. Evangeline Atwood, Mr. Elmer Rasmuson and Mrs. Rasmuson, Dr. and Mrs. Howard Cutler, and Dr. and Mrs. George Adams. Mr. Cashen introduces, including giving a short biography, the speaker who is to give the dedicatory address, Alaska's Secretary of State, Robert Ward.

Mr. Ward thanks Mr. Cashen and acknowledges the audience. He says he would like to review a little history as they make a little history today. Mr. Ward was in Fairbanks last year on Governor's Day May 3rd. On the 1st of May, a year ago to the day, they adjourned a legislative session in Juneau. He says the legislative session is still going on in Juneau this year, although it started a few weeks earlier than it did last year. It is not all the fault of the legislature, he says though. Some things are out of their control.

When he came into Fairbanks today, he was honored to take a ride with Tom Olsen in a new Cessna Cardinal immediately after his arrival. A year ago, Mr. Ward visited this facility and other facilities on the university campus with Dr. Wood. But as he flew over today, he saw that from the air, this remarkable facility dominates the rest of the remarkable campus. He says, compared to a year ago, some things are remarkably different and some things are the same.

Mr. Ward says that they are here tonight to recognize, honor, and preserve the memory of Bob Bartlett, a great Alaskan and a great man who has meant so much to Alaskans. He says it is an honor for him, on behalf of Governor Miller and the state of Alaska, to present the bronze of Bob Bartlett to the University of Alaska.

Mr. Cashen thanks Mr. Ward. Mr. Cashen says that they are especially pleased and honored that Mrs. E. L. Bartlett could be present today to assist in the unveiling of the bronze of her late husband. She, too, was a student here in the early days of the university.

Mrs. Bartlett unveils the bronze. Mr. Cashen describes the statue, saying that the bronze plate at the base has the seal of the U.S. Senate and reads as follows: E.L. "Bob" Bartlett, 1904-1968. Presented to the University of Alaska by the State of Alaska, May 1st, 1970. "A University, in its highest function, is surely a mighty force, injecting moral value, intelligence and vision into the life of the state. Felix de Weldon. [sculptor]"

Mr. Cashen says that the passing of Bob Bartlett on December 11, 1968, created a vacancy in the U.S. Senate. Mr. Cashen introduces the man appointed to fill his spot, Ted Stevens.

Ted Stevens shares a joke with the audience. He says Alaskans are unique Americans because we have the ability to know, not only the people who work with us, but also the people who work for us. The people who work for us are the people privileged to serve the state and its people. Few people have had the opportunity to work as Bob Bartlett did; to help create a state and then to see it through its formative years.

Mr. Stevens says that in his office, he has a statement taken from John Kennedy's inaugural address which refers to the passing of the torch underneath a picture of Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Gruening. Mr. Stevens feels that the torch has been passed on to another generation. He says he has big shoes to fill, following Mr. Bartlett in the Senate. Mr. Stevens says that Mr. Bartlett made many friendships in the Senate and a place in Alaskan's hearts. He will be remembered for many things big and small. And Mr. Stevens is glad Mr. Weldon remembered to include one of those little things in the statue: the rose. Mr. Bartlett brought the last rose from his garden for Senator Smith of Maine.

Mr. Cashen thanks the Senator and presents William Wood as the next speaker.

President Wood acknowledges the audience and accepts the bronze on behalf of the University, saying that it represents a great man who believes in Alaska, Alaskans and the University. Mr. Bartlett set a good example for youth and would have approved of this library. President Wood speaks of the past seminar on uses and abuses of the library and of the upcoming dedication to Elmer Rasmuson. President Wood reiterates that the University is glad to have Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett as students and accepts the bronze in eternal memory of a great Alaskan.

Mr. Cashen thanks the audience.