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Inauguration - President Hiatt's, 1974

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Series:

The announcer provides commentary. He announces what is happening as it happens and gives an outline of the planned events. He says that from the northern region is Roger Hughes, president of Alaska Alumni Association. Music provided by University Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gordon B. Wright(?) and the Choir of the North. The investiture will be presided over by Robert E. McFarland, President of the Board of Regents assisted by William R. Cashen. The inaugural address will be by Robert W. Hiatt, the new president of the University of Alaska. The benediction will be by Walter A. Soboleff. The program will close with the singing of the Alaska Flag Song. The ceremony will be presided over by Robert E. McFarland.

The announcer says the stage party is comprised of the Board of Regents and a number of the principal administrative officers: Robert E. McFarland, Edith R. Bullock, Hugh Fate Jr., A.D. Robertson of Ketchikan, Brian Brundin of Anchorage, Frank Doogan from Juneau, Roy Madsen of Kodiak, the student regent from Juneau, Robert W. Hiatt, Donald M. Dafoe, Donald R. Theophilus, Kenneth M. Ray(?), Max Hullinger, Earl H. Beistline, Lewis E. Haines, Charles O. Ferguson.

While waiting for the stage party, the announcer gives some biographical information about Dr. Hiatt. Including his family, education, career, and various positions held, including several at the University of Hawaii and multiple positions of various boards. Still waiting for the stage party, a statement by William Wood, the past president, is played. Wood praises Hiatt and speaks of the how a university is a continuum. He says the University of Alaska has been fortunate in its students, faculty, leadership and support of the people of the state.

The stage party reaches the stage with Mr. Cashen leading, carrying the mace. The mace is described and commented on. Mr. McFarland speaks, greeting the audience. He introduces Elmer Rasmuson. Rasmuson stands and the audience applauds. Reverend Donald Hart director of St. Mathews Episcopal Church gives the invocation followed by musical selections presented by the university choral group from Anchorage under the direction of Elvera Voth Douglas. They sing "Contradiction" by Franz Schubert, "Wondrous Cool Thou Woodland Quiet" by Brahms, Quartet from "Rigoletto" by Verdi, and "What Joy" from "Der Fledermaus" by Strauss. The announcer gives the names of those singing in "Rigoletto."

Robert E. McFarland thanks the choral group. He says it is customary on the inauguration of university presidents to hear greetings from university representatives and the state governor.

William A. Egan is the first to extend greetings from the state of Alaska. William Egan greets the audience. He is pleased to bring greetings on behalf of the people of Alaska and the state administration. He speaks of the growth of the university. He takes a few moments to express appreciation for former president, William Wood, and extends special greetings to former presidents Terris Moore and Ernest Patty. Egan says he is proud of what Dr. Hiatt has accomplished already, before his inauguration. Egan speaks of the expansion of the community college system and Dr. Hiatt's goals for community colleges and higher education in Alaska. Egan applauds Dr. Hiatt's goals. Governor Egan speaks of the exploitation of natural resources in Alaska and the need for people skilled in natural resource planning and development and people who will use the wealth derived in sound, meaningful programs for human resource development. Educators will play a large role in this development. Governor Egan mentions the need for greater appreciation for the needs and lifestyles of our people in the rural and the urban areas, each for the others. Sometimes the urban areas are given almost total preeminence over the rural areas. He speaks of the need for better communication between people and says that communication is the basic endeavor of education. He speaks briefly on Alaska's Constitutional Convention and how pleasing it is to see in action the concepts that were deliberated and applied to paper with so much hope and conviction for Alaska's future. He speaks of the values in the Alaska constitution and their fulfillment. He knows Dr. Hiatt is committed to these values. Governor Egan ends his speech. The audience applauds.

A graduate student from the University of Alaska, Juneau, Robert W. Wenti(?), speaks. He is representing the southeastern region of the university. He welcomes President Hiatt on behalf of southeastern colleges. He speaks of fisheries, forestry and governmental studies programs in southeast. He speaks about natural and human resource development in Alaska. He speaks about the presidents of the university setting up and expanding the statewide educational system. The role of the university is to benefit and serve the people of Alaska and the students. Dr. Hiatt will carry forward with this work. The student says that he appreciates the respect that he feels from Dr. Hiatt and he says that Dr. Hiatt has the respect of the students as well.

David Hoke, associate professor at the University of Alaska, Anchorage speaks, representing southcentral region of the university. He greets the audience and welcomes Dr. Hiatt to the presidency of the University of Alaska. He says about the uniqueness of the University of Alaska. He speaks about the differing rates of growth among the different campuses of the University of Alaska. He speaks of the various elements that are controlled by one governing board and one president. He comments that the University of Alaska serves the largest state in the union which has the smallest population and the implications of this situation including the various types and levels of training required. He says many skills, such as welding or repair of telecommunications equipment, cannot be learned from only classroom lessons or books. He says that the teacher who flies from village to village in the Kuskokwim area, teaching villages to be teaching assistants in their schools requires far different skills than the geophysicist who does research in an institute but all of these types are required by this university and should be recognized and respected. One of Dr. Hiatt's major tasks will be the unification of this faculty. He speaks of the difficulty of keeping up with the demand for classes in small communities and on the Anchorage campus. He talks about how cooperation can help meet these demands. He talks about the

process of finding facts and seeking truth before making statements. He talks about how Dr. Hiatt has encouraged the faculty to participate fully in the establishment of goals and directions for the university in the future. He assures Dr. Hiatt of the faculty's willingness to help and tolerance for any mistakes he might make just as the faculty must accept responsibility for any of their mistakes. He reiterates the importance of cooperation in minimizing errors and correcting those which occur and reiterates his welcome of Dr. Hiatt to the presidency of the University of Alaska.

The audience applauds.

Roger Hughes(?), president of the University of Alaska Alumni Association speaks next, representing Northern region of the university. Mr. Hughes greets the audience and extends his welcome to Dr. Hiatt on behalf of the Alumni Association. He speaks of the increasing number of University of Alaska graduates. He speaks of the maintenance and growth of the university which Dr. Hiatt will be in charge of, the challenges he will face, and the benefits this will bring to Dr. Hiatt himself and to the people of the state. He says that the alumni are Dr. Hiatt's allies and that together they will further the goals of the University of Alaska.

The audience applauds.

Robert E. McFarland announces that today, University of Alaska Alumni Association will present the University with a gift, the Presidential Medallion. He reads the inscription on the medallion.

The audience applauds.

The speaker says the selection of a university is no small task. When Dr. Wood announced his intention to retire the search for his successor began a nationwide search. A presidential review committee was formed to compile a list of desired attributes and review applicants. It is one year ago, almost to the day, when the Board of Regents selected Dr. Hiatt.

The speaker asks Mr. Cashen to escort Dr. Hiatt to the rostrum. The tape cuts out.