

The liberal-arts college, in my opinion, is the key to the understanding and the exercise of real citizenship.

I believe that the liberal college should seek its natural habitat in the rural areas.

This is an honor that will be prized by me every day of my life, for I can think of no greater monument to any man than a college bearing his name; an institution which will be a vital, vigorous champion of freedom through proper education.

It is particularly appropriate that a college should be named for General Eisenhower. Following V-E Day he expressed the thought that he would enjoy serving in a small college following his retirement from the Army. History provided otherwise, but his sentiments were and still are sympathetic to the cause and to the value of the small college.

It would have been easier to start the college in temporary quarters, but it was our judgment, out of respect for the general, that we should open the college only with new and properly designed facilities. Further, it was our judgment to move ahead before total financing was secured. It was our wish to realize the college as soon as possible, so that he might enjoy the sense of accomplishment during his lifetime. This is underway.

We also know from his communications how much each step of progress has meant to him. Because of his great interest in youth, we also know how much he has anticipated the arrival of the first students, for he has planned all along to greet them personally early this fall.

With five completed buildings and a sixth started 1 month ago, we are ready to receive our first class of freshmen on September 1, 1968. The college faculty has been appointed, and as of yesterday 203 students have completed preregistration for the charter freshman class. Uniformly, they express delight in being pioneers at Eisenhower College. At the current rate of acceptance, we expect that our first class will exceed 250 students.

Fortunately for me, I have been a part of the college organization since the "idea" was conceived by my fellow townsman, physician Dr. Scott W. Skinner, who then joined with me in obtaining General Eisenhower's acceptance of the proposal to give his name to the college. I can attest to the sincerity and generosity of the citizens of Seneca Falls and the Finger Lakes region in creating the college to fill higher educational needs, as well as to pay tribute to General Eisenhower.

Dr. Earl J. McGrath, chancellor of the college, and three others of my administrative colleagues, Messrs. Coffee, Hickman and Mayer, join me here today to make known to you the current status and future prospects of Eisenhower College. The distinctive qualities of the college program, as well as the belief in its need and feasibility, are much the result of Dr. McGrath's early counseling with the organizing committee. Based on Dr. McGrath's proposals, the college was awarded the first charter in 30 years to a coeducational, liberal-arts college by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York.

Recognized candidate status has been granted by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. This, again, is much the result of Dr. McGrath's educational program.

Our association with Dr. McGrath was inspiring, for his commitment to strengthening of the liberal arts was most persuasive and