

**STATEMENT OF DR. KEVIN McCANN, TRUSTEE, EISENHOWER
COLLEGE, SENECA FALLS, N.Y.**

Dr. McCANN. I will be very brief. Mine is only a personal witness to Dwight Eisenhower's interest in the college and his concern for it. I can speak with a bit of authority there, because I have been associated with him since he was Chief of Staff.

I share an office with him now in Gettysburg. As a man, he has no use for the run of monuments. I remember one day over 20 years ago, driving over from the Pentagon to the Hill for a committee hearing, and passing the old District Building and the statue of Mayor Shepherd, and he turned to me in the car and said: "I hope nobody ever spends a dime for a statue for me, that will only clutter up space and be a roosting place for pigeons."

There are elementary schools and high schools named for him. Those have all been built and are maintained out of tax money, local, and with the usual Federal assistance.

There are other monuments: the Eisenhower home in Abilene, the Eisenhower Center, the Eisenhower Library, a hospital in California. Those have been entirely paid for out of private money. And in this present instance, the Government of the United States will be at no cost in erecting a monument at his grave, because Mrs. Eisenhower and he will be buried in the chapel at the Eisenhower Center in Abilene. Their first-born son is already buried there.

There will be another monument to him. He himself and his wife are giving to the Government, to the National Park Service, their farmstead in Gettysburg, 190 acres. It is the assembly area for Pickett's troops and Longstreet's assault.

But in all the enterprises associated with him that have been, or that are rooted in the private sector, he has shown far more interest and has been far more active in this particular enterprise, Eisenhower College, than any other I have known of in the 25 years I have been with him.

He has not only written innumerable letters and discussed the college with innumerable people, he has given of his own substance, his paintings and things of that sort. No other institution has achieved as high a place in his attention and esteem as Eisenhower College, mainly because of the spirit of the place. He was fascinated when a few men from a small community came to him believing that they could build a college.

He was very impressed when he discussed Dr. McGrath's plan for the college.

Now, with a former President of the United States actively interested in a college, most people will say: "Well, there is no trouble at all in money affairs." Unfortunately, Dwight Eisenhower is probably the poorest hand in the world in the raising of money. He just doesn't know how to do it, and it is extremely difficult in any case for him to ask money for something honoring himself.

However, I was asked, and he urged me to accept the assignment as kick-off speaker at the first fund-raising dinner in Seneca Falls. It was one of my very, very few successes as a fund-raiser. In a community of 7,000, almost \$1 million was raised. It is that sort of spirit about the college that most impresses Dwight Eisenhower.