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Wenberg Speaks about UMM

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For Immediate Release

A new test of the faith of the people of west central Minnesota in higher education was the description Stanley J. Wenberg used to characterize the recently-established University of Minnesota, Morris today (Wednesday).

It is a test of whether, "in the numbers justified--indeed demanded--by our nation's needs and the changing forces of our economy", the people of this region "show their belief that their children's future can be made better, happier and more secure by using this new educational opportunity in their midst", according to Mr. Wenberg, who is vice president and administrative assistant of the University of Minnesota.

Mr. Wenberg's convocation address before the student body of the University of Minnesota, Morris on Wednesday gave tribute to the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Land-Grant Act in 1862. He said he believed the Land-Grant college "has proved itself to be an educational response to the changing needs of a changing nation" and "in many respects it has controlled the course of this nation".

The Land-Grant state university, he said, shares with the liberal arts colleges "a commitment to preserving and transmitting our social and cultural heritage". In addition it has a commitment to the scientific method and a commitment to serving the masses of people in an immediately useful way.

"The 1962 version of the Land-Grant philosophy continues to be premised as was the 1862 philosophy--on educational opportunity for all of the young people who can benefit from such opportunity", Mr. Wenberg emphasized.

In reflecting on whether the Land-Grant philosophy really is out of date and out of step, the University vice president replied to critics who state that quality and quantity in higher education do not go together by stating that "quantity is a threat to quality in education only insofar as the people fail to seek quality, to provide the means--the tools and the teachers--to guarantee quality".

"One of the most unsound notions we have to erase from our discussions he said, "is that as a nation we can't afford needed funds for education ... The evidence suggests that people afford what they want".

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Mr. Wenberg is a veteran of more than 16 years on the University staff. He was assistant to the president of the University for seven years before being appointed vice president and administrative assistant in April, 1960.