

Inauguration
OF
JOSEPH M. M. GRAY
AS
CHANCELLOR
OF
The American University

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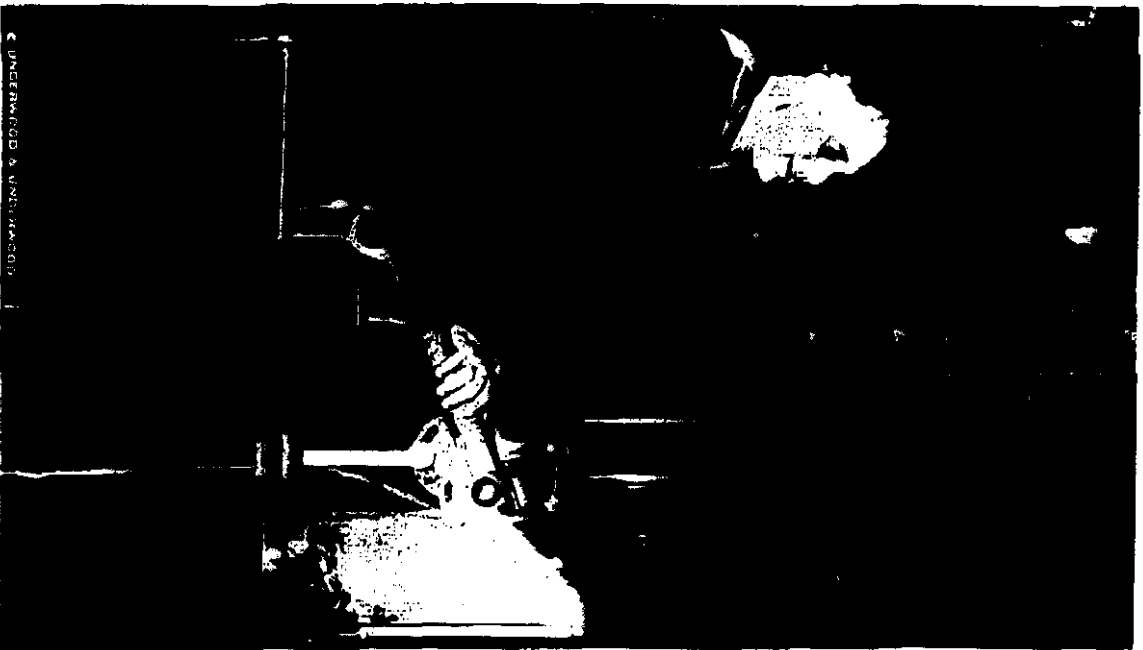
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORIAL CONTINENTAL HALL

MARCH 3, 1934

Among the universities of the land American University is yet young; but you have a great future — a great opportunity for initiative, for constructive thinking, for practical idealism, and for national service. And you are fortunate indeed to have the opportunity of moving forward under the leadership of Chancellor Gray.

—FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT.



It is very delightful to me to become today an alumnus of
American University . . .

Ladies and Gentlemen—

The President of the United States

Doctor Christie: Ladies and gentlemen: The President of the United States.

President Roosevelt: Chancellor Gray, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is very delightful to me to become today an alumnus of American University, and I am honored also in the association with your new Chancellor which it affords. May all the guardian angels be with your administration, Doctor Gray, including that delightful new angel that we have heard about from Bishop Hughes—the fiscal angel.

I am grateful also for the reference by Chancellor Gray to the increasing use of experts in the affairs of our Government. I assure him that the people of the United States and their President are doing their very best to keep up with these experts.

And so for this and many other reasons, it is a good thing for our American life that this University should be situated in the Capital of the country. It is good in the opportunity which it gives to higher education to come into a more intimate understanding of the practical problems of what we call government; it is good for government to expand its associations with the teachers and pupils of a liberal institution.

The New School of Public Affairs

It is, of course, natural that I should take special interest in the announcement made by Doctor Lawrence, my old friend, of the creation of a School of Public Affairs by American University. Many articles have been written, many speeches are being made today and tomorrow seeking to review and to estimate the history of the United States during the past year, and I am willing to hazard the guess that very few of these epitomes will stress what to me stands out as one of the most salient features of a salient year in our American life.

I speak of the amazing and universal increase in the intelligent interest which the people of the United States are taking in the whole subject of government. In cities, in hamlets, and on farms men and women in their daily con-

tacts with each other are discussing, as never before, except in time of war, the methods by which community and national problems are ordered; and war is not, as a matter of fact, an exception, because in such case there is but a single objective.

In the broader problem of present times in so far as it affects government of all kinds, local and state and federal and international, we in this country today are thinking not merely in terms of the moment, but in terms that apply to all the rest of our lives and to the lives of our children and grandchildren. It is true that the immediate cause of this logical and deep-seated new interest was a crisis—an immediate crisis that broke over our heads a year ago. It would have been possible, perhaps, for all of us to have sought only a temporary cure for the immediate illness of the Nation; and we can be thankful that we have studied and are engaged in the process of eradicating the deeper causes of that illness and of many other illnesses of the body politic.

The Need for a Trained Personnel

In so doing, we need very definitely practical contacts between the collegiate and educational world and the operations of government. The development of our economic life requires the intelligent understanding of the hundreds of complicated elements in our society. Government needs very definitely not only the sociological and economic points of view, but it needs also the practical assistance of men and women who represent the academic, the business, and the professional elements in all our communities.

Yes, we need a trained personnel in government. We need disinterested, as well as broad-gauged educated public officials. And, my friends, that part of our program we have by no means solved yet; but it can be solved, and it can be accomplished without the creation of a national bureaucracy which would dominate the national life of our governmental system.

An Assurance of Cooperation

And that is why I am especially happy in the announcement of the establishment of this School of Public Affairs. I can assure you of the hearty cooperation of the Adminis-

tration in all its branches. In the conduct of this school the more widely you can draw on every part of the Nation for the membership of its student body, the greater will be its influence in the dissemination of knowledge of government throughout the country.

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The Benediction

Doctor Christ: The benediction will be pronounced by Bishop John W. Hamilton.

Bishop Hamilton: The peace of God that passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be with you, round about you, henceforth and forever. Amen.

