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## 22nd Annual Boys and Girls Short Course

Paul M. Hebert

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In a recent issue of the Louisiana Leader, the prediction was made that the "cream of the 4-H Club Stock" would gather at the University this week to take part in this 22nd annual Boys and Girls' Short Course. As I look over this audience of intelligent and ambitious young people, I can say, without any hesitation, that this prediction has been more than justified.

The Louisiana State University administration is glad to welcome you to the University. President Smith was called to Washington on important business but before leaving he asked me to express to you, on his behalf, his sincere regret at his inability to be with you at this meeting. You know of his interest in the work of the 4-H Clubs and I am sure that President Smith would love to meet with you on such an occasion as this one. Indeed, I take it that the great majority of you are the future students of L. S. U. and we are quite proud, even at this early date to look upon you as our own.

Your presence here at this annual short course represents an accomplishment of which you may be justly proud because I

understand, as Mr. Abbott has pointed out, that you have, <sup>(2)</sup> through your own meritorious work, earned the right to represent some 20,000 club members who are scattered throughout the 64 parishes of our great state.

There is a deep significance in your club work which, at a meeting such as this, we should by no means lose sight of. In the 4-H you stress those attributes and considerations which are important in youth, more important in adolescence, and all important in adult maturity—the part that the Heart, the Hand, the Head and Health all play not only ~~you~~ in your personal success, but also in achieving a broader and a more perfect social and economic success for our State and nation.

To those of us who are engaged in the work of ~~highed~~ education at an institution like L. S. U., the value of cooperation — a lesson which you learn at a very early period in your Club work is readily apparent. "United we stand—divided we fall" is indeed a trite expression, but there is much that is true in everyday life in its application.

By cooperation in your club work you are accomplishing for Louisiana and for our nation~~al~~ great benefits in agriculture and in homemaking and, what is more important

still, you are day by day making yourselves into better thinking American citizens.

The extension director of the University of Maryland in a recent bulletin in dealing with club work has put the matter very well in the following statement: He says: "The progress of our State and of the Nation has always depended in a large measure upon country boys and girls, and there is reason to believe that this will always be true. Nowhere do clear thinking and all the attributes of good citizenship thrive better than in the rural sections, where there is more of the real and less of the artificial in daily living and work".

Assembled here today, you represent a cross-section of the future backbone of our nation and State, which is not our vaunted cities with their towers of splendor and the numerous complications of modern civilization but which is to be found in our rural sections upon which we are largely dependent for prosperity, happiness and a better social and economic order.

Whatever our task may be now or later, we should always strive to do our best but I find that in your club

work you would even strive to make the best better. (4)

In closing, I well realize that I have brought you no definite message here today and that I have dealt largely in platitudes, but I do wish to assure you that it has been a real pleasure to be here to see and meet you; to congratulate the University extension division on bringing you here; to welcome you on behalf of the President of the University and to express the hope that you may derive as much pleasure from your visit as the University experiences in having you with us. And, in the not too distant future, I am looking forward to seeing many of you as students at L. S. U., where you ill find a broader field for the application of your principles of clearer thinking, greater loyalty, larger service and better living for your community, State and country.