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Science Building Announcement 11/13/1962

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Macalester College Archives
Audio Reel #150
Science Building Announcement 11/13/1962

[bagpipes play]

Members of the student body, members of the Board of Trustees and distinguished platform guests, members of the faculty, ladies and gentlemen. We welcome you most heartily to this special convocation which is a memorable one in the history of our college. I should like to begin by making a few introductions if you would permit me to do so. First I should like to ask the members of the Board of Trustees who are seated in the chairs immediately in front of the rostrum please to rise and receive your greeting, members of the board [applause].

On the rostrum beginning at your left and my right at the end of the rostrum, Professor Chester Shiflet, Chairman of the Department of Chemistry, and Director of the Division of Sciences at Macalester. Next to Professor Shiflet, a man who was born on this campus, and who is here today honoring us on this occasion, Mr. DeWitt Wallace. [applause] One seat inward from Mr. Wallace, Foundation Secretary Mr. Rausch Clark from Chicago [applause]. On Mr. Clark's left, Mr. James Quinn, an attorney from New York City. [applause] On my immediate left the President of the Community Council of the student body of Macalester College, Arthur [unclear]. Arthur has been very, very happy these recent days that his election last spring was not as close to some of the ones this autumn.

The speaker on this occasion lives in Minneapolis. He is President of the Federal Cartridge Corporation. During the war, he operated the Twin Cities Ordnance Plant at New Brighton,

Minnesota, and also during the Korean War. He is President of the Hoffman Engineering Corporation, he holds various posts of civic honor, being a Director and Chairman of the Minneapolis Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and a member of the Minnesota Water Resources Board. He has been honored by colleges, cities and states. He received the Distinguished Graduate Award of the Law alumni of the University of Minnesota in 1961, being a graduate of University of Minnesota law school. He received a citation medal for conservation, education and outstanding leadership from the United States Department of Agriculture. He holds honorary degrees, both doctor of science, doctor of law, and doctor of literature from Clemson College, from Cornell College, from Bucknell University, from Lafayette College, from Western Polytechnic Institute, and from the University of Southern California, and Colorado College. It is a very great honor and privilege for me to present to you, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Charles Lily Horn, President of the Olin Foundation. Mr. Horn.

[applause]

CH: Well, after that introduction and after being piped in by the [unclear] I don't see anything else except a very exceptionally high grade funeral, I think that would probably be the best you can expect. My talk this morning will not be directed to particularly education because I don't want to think about that. It will be directed more or less to the finances of an independent college which we hope to keep alive in this country before some frontier takes us over.

[applause] I think I'll give you a little background on what I mean. I don't have to tell you, you can find it in the world's almanac or any other ostentatious institution that sells for one dollar so I don't have to claim very much in this. The United States of America back in 1800 had the

tremendous population of 5 million people. By 1810, it had increased to 7 million people. This year I suppose at this very moment we could probably say it has 192 million people. At that time, the scholar, the performance of the people of the United States was practically nil, there were few universities and colleges established by churches which were teaching theology and mostly grammar and science. At that time we had very few universities. To give you an example of what the colleges have done in the last hundred years or 62 years, I just go back to 1900 again, where that year they graduated a total of 27 thousand people. 1910 it had increased to 37,000, and in 1959 we had the grand total of 381 thousand graduates from colleges in the United States. You can see what a tremendous growth has made in the last 49 years. You can only hope it won't be as great for the next 49 years because if it is there won't be room for highways or supermarkets or chain stores, they're all going to college. The cost of education in this country is increasing rapidly. There isn't very much you can do about it but talk about it. At the present time we have enrolled in the United States about 37 million pupils. Now that 37 million pupils, when we get through we have out of each thousand starts 1 to 17 and that's 5 to 17, there's about 620 graduates out of the high schools and the grade schools. The great loss occurs in the first 3 years in high school where a larger percentage of loss does occur. When they get through they have about 620 left in which 319 of them have some desire to go to college or do go to college. The cost of college education is costing more and more. As it is on elementary education. It's the fastest growing business in the United States without any competition and furthermore it's entirely been the [unclear] how fast it grows. There's no limit to where we could go, if they really put on the steam. So our educational system is the costliest of all other businesses that we've got. We can talk all we want about it at PTAs and other places

but the fact of the matter is, the [unclear] is coming on, [unclear]. There are 1092 accredited universities in the United States. Approximately 600 junior colleges and probably as many unaccredited colleges of some kind of character. The tremendous cost of education keeps on creeping up, and unfortunately the people who are running the institutions didn't have the courage 15 years ago to do what they're now forced to do to keep the college doors open. They did not realize at that time that when they were charging 600 dollars for education reform they were really giving a bargain away to anyone who wanted to accept it. After they finally got up to the front where they found out that under some kind of a frontier we were worth 47 cents out of every dollar they began to look at their costs and they began to look at their income and discover that the two were not matching by a long ways, it was quite an interval. Now what can you do to keep education systems going? There are more people that talk about doing things in education than any other business except the weather. Fortunately they do not do as much enforcing of the weather because it does rain when we need it. Now a year or two ago to find out what was wrong we hired a character, the United States or somebody did to send him to Great Britain to find out how they did it over there. He was graduated at the public expense Naval Academy and he knows all of the answers and means to education. When he came back he came back with the marvelous statement, that we were very, very far behind in education and if we didn't hurry up we would never catch up. Well, it's an interesting thing, that out of each thousand students come out of high school, 33% of them go to college. Out of the same 1,000 in Great Britain that came out of high school, 4% go to college. I don't think we're doing too bad we must be educating everybody but we're doing better there. In Great Britain when you want to go to college you have to make up your mind at 11 years of age. At that mature age you're asked whether you

want an education. So you take your examinations at that time and accept that college, you're a dedicated person as far as college is concerned. We do wait a little longer, 'til 17 or 18 when we make up our mind, and then the selection starts by what college can I get in. Out of the number I enquire, many others don't get in, and that is a God's blessing. It's only a pity that we don't have colleges for laundry and masonry because we would probably be doing it a little better.

Now we're going to start to you here today to college here. Now Macalester has a long record of scholarship and acquaintance in this way and people have known it for a long time. We have here on [the] display platform a son of a father who at one time was president of this institution, Mr. Wallace, so he's [unclear] here. When we start out Macalester we start out approximately 1,555 students, I believe that's it. The percentage of ladies at this school is large, probably larger than most institutions. Now you better hang on to that favorite because they're fast disappearing. Colleges are now going to be where fewer and fewer women are going to these schools because of the drippy drop out they have from the feminine race. They came to college dedicated just for two purposes. One is to get away from home and the second is to find a husband and after the second they [unclear]. So the drop out is terrific as far as the females are concerned. In fact at one college was 55% of the total, they did very well down there, they all got one of the farm boys. Now, I'd like to call your attention to the fact that here you are now, and I'm going to start with you this fall. You came September, October and you started college. There's 100 joyful faces that came in from somewhere. Well you shake hands with your neighbor because next spring at this time one third of you won't be here. You'll be out at another college or somewhere else because of either education, dropout, failing classes. That's no reflection of you, that's the average of the United States. So when you come back the second year and shake hands with

each other and look around, remember when you come back there's going to be 9% more of you gone. They go pretty fast, up to the junior year when the dropouts start falling down considerably. When you got ready to graduate and walk across this platform or some other to catch a degree from this college, you'll find out that out of a total of 100 that walked with you when you started, 46% of you graduate. Now you wonder why education costs money. When of course Macalester's a wretched institution they just have barrels and every day they dish it out, but does it ever occur to you, that every time one of you comes to college and quits after the first year, you still have 729 dollars that you ought to pay back to them? In other words that's going to cost them to educate you that year. As you come back the second year you owe some more. Now colleges can't continue forever being philanthropists of that way. Some day they're going to have to raise the rate and say the first two years are going to cost you more money than the last two. It's a funny thing that after it finally gets to be a junior or senior the professors all get tenure but even they don't want to lose it, see. But I tell you they are losing people down below who are crazed to get along. Now in this school here you have a pretty fair setup. I'm going to give you some facts this morning that might be of advantage to you. The Olin Foundation and this operation has gone over and prepared a questionnaire, everybody has a questionnaire or a page to pull away, it may be a 4% or 50% but that doesn't make any difference, they take it. So we start here with general administration. Now everything in the place is so [unclear] they can't get somewhere else. The cost of general administration of this college is very high, very high and much higher than ought to be in comparison with other colleges. I can only say that is high because they're making transitive changes here that cost more money but eventually it should be down to the average which is 14% in the United States and they have a very colossal 288%.

Our [unclear] operation they're not too bad they bought about 12%. Staff retirement expenses they got 3.44 which is very high and very good because that indicates that they taken care of Bill and Charlie of 40 years who would like to have a little rest [unclear] students. Then they go to student aid. That's 9 and 27 hundred percent, that's very good. Other expenses including auxiliary services is 7.2. A total cost is 2 million, 2 hundred 74 thousand, two hundred and 96 dollars. Now let's see what they do down below here. We've got instruction and research at 43 that's pretty good. Then we get down to student fees. Well, surprisingly see you've made quite an increase here. There was a time when student fees at this place was a total of 36%. After a time like that you'll go broke, you can't break fast enough. You're now 56 and 41 hundredths percent. Endowment? Excellent, you've got a fine endowment income here, far better than most colleges. You have 17% of 389,000 dollars. Then you have gifts. If there's one thing I can say about Macalester that I can't say about most colleges, somebody is very ingenious around here in getting more gifts than most colleges, I can't blame the professor for all of that but there must be some alumni who are doing it. Your gifts are 419,000 dollars and that's very good, making your total after spending expenditures 100% or 2 million 275 thousand, showing a grand surplus of 779 dollars. Now if [unclear] had that much money coming in, and that much money to spend and I turned to my director and said at the end of the year, I got 779 dollars, I'd be looking for a new job. It wouldn't take long to find out I wasn't wanted. Now the sad part about thing is that your dropouts are high. Much higher than they ought to be but I can believe that's going to be corrected, I am told now that the dropouts of this institution are improving and eventually you hope to get down to the point well under the standard average. The standard average in this place would be about 60% staying in. Now you can't all stay in college, and you're not to be

blamed for that. There's a good many things, death, health, moving away, marriage, which is a big factor, all of those things count. Now let's see how you stand in this thing. Now you're going to college here and you think you've paid all the expenses, well I'll try to explain to you that you don't. You're far from it. So when you prance across the program at the end of the year and get your degree, you have cost the college. Now get this, you've cost the college 2,792 dollars. In other words, that's how far you've come from paying the bills, you're around here. Well multiply that by 10 hundred or 655 and you know what I mean at the end of the fourth year. Now what are you going to do about that? Well, there isn't very much you can do about it just now, but you're going to have to do something eventually. Now eventually this money that we're talking about is a 50 cent dollar so it doesn't look so bad if you divide the two to find out what would have been the old days when we had stability and people didn't have inflation ideas. Now I want to call your attention to another thing. An independent college can only live so long as it gets support. I could take the state University of Minnesota, it's a [unclear] over here and believe me that's where many people go, we ought to send them a bill for two years training so they're qualified to get in over there and don't get kicked out first day. But you can't do that unfortunately, so you have to do something better. Macalester has any right to be a college unless it can provide more education for what matters than anybody else. That's the secret of this whole thing. If you can't do that, then there's no reason for Macalester except as a social center to have a lovely pipe band. Now you've got to do more than that, you've got to be a better institution. Well how can you be a better institution? Well, first of all you've got to have a Board of Trustees. They all look fine here today, I'm sure they're all rich men, everybody's rich now anyway so I can say generally they're rich men. But they're giving their time here

without any pay. They don't get paid to come out here and listen to me. They don't get paid to come out here and do anything except to do the best they can for the city of St. Paul and for the students. But the Trustees have accepted responsibility, they aren't here just because they want to be here, they have an honor in being here. So when they get on the job here they've got something else to think about except nice days. They've got responsibility, too. Well, what is that responsibility, to see the institution is run properly, that there's not too much money spent on things that are unnecessary. But the biggest job is to encourage some of their rich friends to give some money to the institution and not ask the president to go around with a tin cup in his hand all the time. That's their job. And a standard of pay set and living is a standard you will probably have to set later on. Well now what is the big background for dollars here? Well, the big background for dollars is you. I'm talking about you as individuals it's you. You are here for a purpose. You came here to prove your mind. So when you graduate and go back home, you can remember that you owe almost three thousand dollars to this institution for the money they put up. But what are you going to do about it? You gonna do like Johnny and the rest of them do, come back to the fifth year alumni reunion and have a good time, come back to 10th have a better time, come back to 15th looking a little older and worn out and then you come back to the 20th and you say, well, Mariam wants to go to school down here at Macalester. You know I graduated there, it's a grand old institution and I think I ought to be in there. So you're gonna go around the Registrar, and he's going to look you up as Tom Smith, how much did he ever do for the institution, well he graduated. That's what he did. He graduated and came back for fall alumni banquets or something else. He's a great ruler, I'll tell you that, but he forgot to send any dough to Dear Old Macalester to keep it going, he just fell down on the job and sprung his nose.

He didn't do a thing. Now every alumni in this school and everybody who's going to be an alumni has an obligation. It can't be written in the contract, it's a moral obligation if you please, an obligation if they want to see independent institutions in the United States to get behind any drive and all drives and all the time remember that what you may be doing for Macalester you may be doing for your grandson or your daughter or your own son. And the only way you're going to do that is to recall a fact that you have this obligation. Now, it's an easy thing to talk about doing all those things. I went through it myself. You can't do it the first year, good heavens no. You may not do it the second year, pretty soon there's a good many things to buy in the house so that you can't do it. But somehow you might cut out on a few other things which you do and remember that if you send even 10 dollars a year, that's the smallest you ought to send, back to this institution, it might be a little more easier for the board of directors and for his people to run this school. Now you can expect so much from foundations. They can only give you so much money. Foundations are not just running around peddling money like it was for nothing. They don't do that. They give money because they expect somebody to do something. And when a foundation comes into your school and says to you, look we think Macalester is a good school and we want to give it some money, the reason they may have done this is for two reasons. First of all, they had a duty like your trustees, to perform, is to give away money to give it to institutions that merit consideration and doing something within the community. But it isn't with the who to give it to you or anyone else unless it stimulates some action on the part of the people who live around Macalester and make the money off of it and do the job. Let me tell you something, if the Chamber of Commerce of St. Paul or Minneapolis or some other institution found an industry that's paying 2 million 276 thousand dollars a year from his own funds and the

parents and the students were paying almost one half as much, they have the Chamber of Commerce down there and give him a key to the city and haul him around [in] a carriage. But right in your midst, you've got an industry that's a terrific spender, and it keeps this money here because it's all spent here and it doesn't go outside of town. And the Chamber of Commerce might take notice of that today if they will, please, now I've told you a few of the fact alight. I can't tell them all to you, I can only tell you one thing. That if you don't support your independent colleges there are two things inevitable. One is that you're going to have federal education. Don't kid yourself a bit, the mass people that are coming into colleges by 1970 will be over 5 million 6 hundred thousand. You've got to find room for them. And don't kid yourself, professors or anybody else, come down off your [unclear] and make up your mind. You've got mass education coming, now you're going to have to be able to take care of it. If you can't take care of it you're just going to be washed down the stream like other debris without any recollection. Now I've told you the facts of life, I've got something good to tell you. Mr. [unclear] and Mr. [unclear] travel around the United States repeatedly. We go lots of places, we've seen more colleges, more trustees, and more presidents than anybody else you've ever seen. We go to Olin. Some are good, bad, and indifferent. We're glad we got a good one over here, we're mighty glad we got a good college, we got a good president, we like the trustees. Well, what do we do when we find a school like that? Well, we try to help that school out. So we're going to do that very thing to this school. We believe in Dr. Rice, we believe in trustees, and we believe in you, and we believe you're going to have to pay some of these bills someday that's got to be paid. And believing you as they do, the trustees have voted to give you 1 million,

6 hundred thousand dollars, and 67 cents to build a building of science, chemistry, mathematics.

[applause]

[Speaker?]: I think I ought to have a few minutes to decide whether or not to accept. With an explanation from Mr. Horn, that the 67 cents on the end of the 1 million, 6 hundred thousand dollars is for our contingencies, I accept for the Board of Trustees and the students and faculty, and Macalester college, Mr. Horn. [applause]

If each of the students here would permit me to speak for him and her, I truly accept this gift from you and the building that it will produce, for the students who will benefit from it, now and far into the future. The only reason that any of us are here Mr. Horn, is because the students are here. And in their name and on their behalf, I'm happy to receive and to accept this magnificent gift. [applause] A gentlemen who is a friend of Macalester though from afar, and a friend because of a very close personal friendship between him and one of our Trustees, is a man who has been a close friend of Mr. Horn for more than 40 years. Two weeks ago, Mr. Horn permitted me to write a letter of invitation to this gentlemen, to come and be with us today on this memorable occasion. He was to have arrived this morning on a plane at 9:07 at the airport but that plane was grounded, that flight was grounded in Chicago, and he could not take it. They wheeled out one of his planes however, and he flew up in a company conveyer in order that he could be here on this occasion. He has had a very great deal to do with the decision that has been made both for us to apply for and to be examined by and to receive this magnificent gift. Ladies

and gentlemen, I take great pride, in presenting to you, General Robert Wood, Chairman of the Board of Sears, Roebuck and Co. [applause]

General Wood, I hope you will not take seriously what Mr. Horn will say to you about flying because he does not like for his friends to fly, he won't permit himself to fly. But we are happy that you can and will and that you are here. Now I would like to ask Mr. Wallace if he has anything to say to us, Mr. Wallace? [applause]

DW: Ladies and Gentlemen, this is truly a historic occasion in the annals of Macalester I'm sure, but there's never been a more significant contribution from any foundation. There is only one way I can think of in which all of those present can express the gratitude they feel in their hearts, and that is by giving 9 hurrahs for [the] Olin Foundation. I will be the cheerleader and I want you to listen closely because I want you to sound off loud and clear on the very first note.

The yell will be this. Olin Foundation. Rah rah rah. Rah rah rah. Rah rah rah. O O O.

[applause] Obviously it's appropriate for everybody to rise and I want you to put your whole heart and soul and body into this yell. Ready: Olin Foundation. Rah rah rah. Rah rah rah. Rah rah rah. O O O. [applause and laughter].

[Speaker?]: Mr. Wallace, you did a magnificent job and I speak as an expert. When Mr.

Wallace was a student here, he played shortstop on the baseball team and at that time baseball was a more important collegiate sport than football. That time I was crawling around as a child of 2 or 3 [laughter], but later on I gave eight magnificent years as cheerleader in high school and far through college. So I tell you Mr. Wallace you did a magnificent job. In order that you may

place the projected building in your thinking about our campus, you have heard previously that the Fine Arts Building is going to be built where the present temporary buildings are, behind me across the football field, across Macalester street which is being closed and into the ground beyond, that was formerly occupied by the houses that were situated there. This building Olin Hall of Science, will be constructed at the south edge of the present football field, and it together with the Fine Arts Building will form with Old Main and this building in the Field House, a new quadrangle for this part of the campus. I'm also thrilled to be able to say to you, that Mr. Wallace has agreed and our Board of Trustees unanimously has voted to name the new magnificent fine arts center the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center for Mr. Wallace's mother.

[applause]

The present football field will be moved to the south edge of the campus, between now and next fall. And construction will begin we hope on the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center within the next 60 days, and we hope that construction will begin on the Olin Hall of Science within the next 6 months. Now if the bagpipers will gather, and proceed us as we leave the stage, I should ask you to permit the Trustees to fall in behind the bagpipers and march out and we from the stage will follow them and move out. There is to be a press conference, a news conference immediately following the adjournment of this convocation in the room to the left as we go out. There is a meeting of our Board of Trustees today at Wallace Hall, and if the Trustees would proceed to Wallace Hall at their leisure, we will come there immediately following the news conference. Pipers, the floor is yours. [bagpipes play]