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Bryant College 97th Commencement
Class Day Address, July 28, 1960
Campus Green, 10:00 A. M.

THE TURNING POINT

William J. Bauman

Bryant '60

111-2(1)
Mr. Chairman, Doctor Jacobs, members of the Administration and the Faculty, honored guests, and members of the graduating class of 1960:

If you were to look up the word graduation in the dictionary, you would find the definition to be "the conferring or reception of an academical degree." Tomorrow at our graduation ceremonies, that is exactly what will be happening. The faculty has diligently prepared us for our degree; our parents, wives, and friends have encouraged us toward this day; and we have studied, persevered, and waited for this acknowledgment. However, graduation has another meaning for us. It is a turning point in our lives.

From our early pre-school days until this moment we have been learning. Before elementary school we learned the essentials of how to walk, talk, dress, and maybe even count to ten. Our grade school years gave us the foundation of reading, writing, and arithmetic. From there we went to high school, which was a preparation for higher learning. Some of us went directly from high school to college. Others interrupted this straight line of learning with military obligations, practical experience, or just plain making up our minds to what we wanted to do. We chose business, and whether as a

a Secretary, teacher, or business man, Bryant has provided us with the necessary education to earn our coveted degree. Here we all are today on this pivot of our turning point.

Now we will begin to use all past years of learning and preparation to launch a successful career in our chosen field. Of course, our turning point does not find us through with learning either. There are some of us who already have plans to go on toward an advanced degree. And for the rest of us--we all realize that the acquiring of knowledge never ceases as long as we keep our minds active and alert.

But this new route we take from our turning point now leads us into the world of business. It is a world full of challenge, opportunity, discouragement, and finally fulfillment. America's economy, which is the greatest in the world, is based on its business people. We are to become active members of this assemblage, and a great deal will be expected of us. To keep American standards high, we must keep our principles high.

Though each of us will be but one small piece to a very large puzzle, all the pieces will fit together to make our great land even greater. Each of us will strive to succeed; and this ambition, competition, and the use of our energy and imagination will continue to set the pace of this country's progress.

The progress that our combined efforts will produce will better our living conditions and give our loved ones comforts and conveniences that our forefathers never dreamed of.

As holders of these academical degrees obtained at graduation, our turning point also sends us along a path as part of the educated adult population.

This path is lined with the responsibilities of guiding our children, being active in community projects, and keeping a strong America by helping democracy live and grow stronger.

It will be our duty now, not only to succeed in our own careers, but also to succeed in keeping peace in this trouble-torn world if there are to be any generations to come. Each and everyone of us must keep an active and interested hand in our country's battle for peace.

And so having glanced back over our preparative years and forward to our fulfillment years, let us stop at this point in our lives to thank all those who have helped us and perhaps made possible this wonderful day. Speaking for myself and the other members of the class we thank our instructors and members of the administration for their guidance, understanding, wisdom, and patience . . . and especially to Doctor Jacobs for having had the foresight and wisdom to establish this unique educational institution. To our parents, wives, and friends, we thank you for your loyalty, encouragement, financial aid and never ending faith. We only hope that our future attainments and successes will in some small way repay you.

As we say goodbye to the Class of 1960 as a group, this turning point sends us along separate roads to our individual goals. But whether as a group or individual, let us all have the same goal of peace, prosperity, and resulting happiness.