

Madame Chancellor:

I have the honour to present Dr. James (Jim) Milton Ham, Bachelor of Applied Science, Master of Science, Doctor of Science, President of the University of Toronto and a most distinguished Engineer, scholar and Canadian.

Dr. Ham was born in Coboconk near Lindsay, Ontario. He received his education at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1943 with a Bachelor in Applied Science degree in Electrical Engineering, and the highest mark ever awarded to an Engineering graduate at the University of Toronto, followed by a Master of Science in 1947, and Doctor of Science in 1952, both from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In the interval between degrees, Dr. Ham served with the Royal Canadian Navy as an Electrical Officer.

After a brief stay on the Faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he returned, in 1953, to the University of Toronto as an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, and became full Professor in 1959. During the next two decades at the University of Toronto, Dr. Ham held a number of academic and administrative posts. He was the Head of the Electrical Engineering Department from 1964 to 1966, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering between 1966 and 1973, Chairman of the Research Board from 1974 to 1976, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, 1976 to 1978, when he accepted his present post as the 10th President of the University of Toronto.

His long list of honours and recognitions include:

1967 – Centennial Medal of Canada; 1974 – Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, Queen's University; 1977 – Silver Jubilee Medal of Canada; 1979 – Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, University of New Brunswick; 1979 – Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, McGill University.

Dr. Ham began his academic work in the field of automatic control and quickly established his national and international reputation through his numerous publications and reports, and his outstanding leadership in international service.

As a young professor during the summer of 1953, he participated in an International Seminar in India as a staff member of the World University Service.

In 1959, he initiated the Canadian Committee on Automatic Control under the auspices of the National Research Council and served as its chairman from 1959 to 1964.

Dr. Ham spent the summer of 1960 in the U.S.S.R. as a visiting Professor under the National Research Council exchange with the Soviet Academy of Sciences. He spent the following year at Cambridge University, as a visiting scientist.

From 1966 to 1972 he served on the Executive Committee, of the International Federation on Automatic Control. During this same period, he was a member of the Board of Governors, and Executive Committee at George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology.

His other activities have included: Chairman of the Committee of Ontario Deans of Engineering, 1967-1968; Member of the National Research Council and Executive Committee, 1969-1974; Chairman, Committee on National Research Council Laboratories, 1972-1974; Chairman, Committee on Education and Training of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, 1971-1974; Member, Board of Governors, Ontario Research Federation, 1971 to present. Perhaps his greatest contribution came in his Royal Commission (Ontario) report on the Health and Safety of Workers in Mines, 1974-1976. This report was received with enthusiasm by the Minister of Labour (Ontario), Dr. Bette Stephenson. Her quote as “. . . one of the best reports I have ever read . . .”, reflected Dr. Ham's highly scientific and humane approach to a complex social problem. The report strongly criticized the Provincial and the Federal governments for failing to protect the province's 30,000 mine workers from hazardous conditions that mean death, injury or life ruined by disease or disability. One of the report's major recommendations, implemented since then, was the establishment of a new occupational health and safety authority under the Ontario Minister of Labour.

Despite his engineering background, Dr. Ham is a strong advocate of liberal arts education. He deplores the tendency of students to be concerned about their market value, to crowd into strictly professionally oriented courses. For taking this stand, a recent story on him in Britain's Times Higher Education Supplement was headed as “Dr. Ham's Lonely Battle Against the Forces of Philistinism”. But he is resolute. He views the University as an intellectual city with liberal arts disciplines at the core, and professional programs making the suburbs.

Dr. Ham has always been a keen sportsman. He enjoys snowshoeing, skiing and hiking. Despite the heavy demands placed on his time by an exceedingly demanding career, he manages to remain an active sportsman. At a recent conference of Commonwealth Universities in British Columbia, he managed to find time to climb Mount Garibaldi.

As President of the University of Toronto, Dr. Ham and his wife, Mary, now reside in the President's residence. Their son is following his father's career and has just graduated in Chemical Engineering at the University of Toronto, while their daughter is artistically inclined.

Madame Chancellor, it is an honour and a privilege for me, to ask in the name of the Senate, that you confer upon James (Jim) Milton Ham, the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

D. R. Campbell
President

May 22, 1980