AFTER nearly a quarter of a century spent in the public service, I well
come the opportunity to speak briefly of those broader opportunities and duties for
service which lie before the graduates of the Class of 1937.

But I bring to you no mere call to service; I bring you, as well, an appeal to a
richer and fuller life which always comes to him who finds his part in some great
cause. A great American philosopher has suggested that no man and no woman
may truly live or truly serve until he has found and captured for himself some
cause—some thing, whatever it may be, to which he may give in full devotion
the deepest loyalty of his soul.

It is with such a thought in mind that I suggest to you that the life of every per-
son here today will be enriched in direct proportion to his or her devotion to the
social good.

At no time in the history of this state and this nation have the problems of so-
ciety been more difficult, more complex, more needful of wise consideration and
solution, or, I may say, more appealing to the spirit of our college men and women.

We of Oklahoma have lived in a single generation the entire cycle of history that
in most other states has consumed gener-
ations. Here we found the last western
frontier; here we lived the last chapter
in the long story of the pioneer. Okla-
ahoma was truly a land of hope and op-
opportunity with its rolling prairies, its vir-
gin, fertile soil, its great mineral deposits,
its streams and forests. These things we
saw, and seeing them, we took them for
our own, and made of them the fabric
of our commonwealth.

But, we have builded with an optim-
ism which assumed inexhaustible farm
lands, forests, and mineral resources. We
have depleted our soils through excessive
crop production and a failure to follow
scientific rotation of crops. Through de-
forestation, lack of terracing, and unwise
plowing up of native grasses and vege-
tation, we have permitted soil erosion by
the forces of violent winds and water.

The prodigality with which we attack
our natural resources of oil and gas was
unparalleled. Vast quantities of oil were
drawn to the surface before markets, trans-
portation, or even proper storage facilities
were available. Gas sufficient for the
needs for generations was blown into the
air in the wild scramble for the oil, though
only by the use of such gas to
draw the oil to the surface could the life
of whole fields be properly prolonged.

At last we have learned the lesson that
waste cannot be justified. Fortunately,
we have come to recognize our great
mistakes. I speak to you today of this
common folly of all of us in failing to
protect and preserve our natural resources,
because there is yet time to preserve our
place among the leading producing states
and to keep our state still the most com-
fortable, the most profitable and the most
attractive place in which to live, if only
we can assist in an aroused public con-
sciousness and give our support to the
agencies of government that have been
set up to end the wasteful methods of
the past.

Here as elsewhere in our social fabric,
sound and constructive regulation is the
order of the day. Our state constitution
wisely provided for the regulation of trans-
portation and transmission companies
and the extending of similar regulations
to other industries and services vital to
the needs of the people, until today we
regulate, among others, public utility ser-
vice, natural gas service and power and
electric service.

The old era of non-interference, or
laissez-faire, is gone. Henceforth, society
must act to prevent the losses and wastage
of the past, as well as to bring about that
proper development of those resources so
essential to the welfare and happiness of
mankind. Likewise, henceforth, the regu-
lations of those industries and those utili-
ties which primarily affect the public wel-
fare must be more and more certain and
effective in the public interest.

In my own work I see day by day the
great developments in the field of com-
 munications and the benefits which
should flow to the public therefrom in
better, more extensive and less expensive
service.

Only last month I listened to the first
conversation by telephone between this
country and the Republic of China, and
that conversation, over a distance of nearly
ten thousand miles, was as clear as though
it had been carried on between persons in
the same city. Today you can pick up
your telephone here in Norman and call
directly persons in most of the nations of
the world.

The new coaxial cable, capable of carry-
ing simultaneously hundreds of telephone
calls or thousands of telegraph messages,
and of being used interchangeably for
televising, should revolutionize communi-
cations, and assist in making practicable
the wonders of television.

The radio transforms the world before
your very eyes, and it is yet in its infancy.
Scarcely have we begun fully to realize
the advantages which radio rightfully owes
to the public, through better and more
educational programs. I hope that the day
may come when, through the radio, at
practical hours and frequencies, the doors
of this and other universities and colleges
may be open to our homes in this and
other states of the nation.

And just as it must be recognized that
communications are potentially the prop-
erty of the state and nation and must be
conducted by those who operate them for
the benefit of the people they serve, so
must it likewise be recognized that other
public utilities and public service agencies
must also conduct themselves as agencies
of the public, and serve honestly, most

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BY PAUL WALKER, CLASS OF '12

More than a thousand seniors march in to receive degrees
to service

economically and most efficiently the needs of the people.

If these problems are to be solved, they must be solved by the help and the service of the men and women from the great universities and colleges of the land. Never in the nation’s history have college and university men and women been more essential to the state and nation. And in the spirit of service, loyalty, and of selfless patriotism, devotion to the public welfare, they have nobly responded.

One of the most inspiring things to me about the government in Washington during my stay there has been the patriotic fervor and the devotion given to the service by college and university men and women. They have worked with a zeal which no price could buy and with the single thought—the country’s good.

The call to service carries with it mutual obligations. He who would follow public service as a career must unselfishly renounce selfish interest or private gain, for the greater common good.

The group present for the dinner included, in addition to the honor guest: Leota Davis, Norman, Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Bizzell, Norman; Mr. and Mrs. Julien C. Monnet, Norman; Jack Luttrell, '38, Norman; Ben S. Hill, '38, Duncan; Earl Foster, '12, Oklahoma City; Maurice H. Merrill, '19, Norman; C. P. Green, '25, Norman; LaRue Pottorff, '38, Oklahoma City; Jack Douglas, '36, Norman; Per- rill Munch Brown, '14, Norman; Dick L. Gilley, '38, Oklahoma City; Herbert Branan, '32, '38, Muskogee; Elton B. Hunt, '13, Tulsa; F. H. Balyeat, '11, Norman; Ted Beaird, '21, Norman, and Floyd W. Wright, Norman.

Murrath honor guest

One of the outstanding spring events on the campus was a dinner given by Congress Literary Society to honor Federal District Judge A. P. Murrath, '28law, Dr. E. E. Dale, head of the History Department, presided. Other speakers included J. L. Gowdy, Oklahoma City attorney; Charles Schwoerke, Oklahoma county representative; and Herbert Branan, Muskogee county representative, all alumni of the University. Alfred Naifeh, law student, also spoke.