Remarks at Faculty Study Conference

Milo A. Rediger
Taylor University

Follow this and additional works at: https://pillars.taylor.edu/rediger-writings

Part of the Higher Education Commons

Recommended Citation
https://pillars.taylor.edu/rediger-writings/26

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Milo Rediger at Pillars at Taylor University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Milo Rediger Writings & Addresses by an authorized administrator of Pillars at Taylor University. For more information, please contact pillars@taylor.edu.
Well, we're back in the saddle again - and I think I feel the saddleburns already; but, as Mr. Kissinger said, "There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full."

But we were not without physical fitness experience while we were away - in fact, I think we matched a ten-week Wandering Wheels jaunt!

How good it is to be back - in the U.S.A., in Indiana, in Upland, at Taylor University. Our special compliments to all who had a part in the improvement and the beautiful condition of the campus. The lawns, the shrubs and flowers, Reade Avenue,(See in Dale's letter), the area around the house in the trees, and the general atmosphere--even the approach walk to the Library entrance.

I think this expression of appreciation and compliment to you is probably the most important remark I'll make tonight.

I want to add a word of thanks for flowers and sympathy cards in memory of my mother who passed away while we were gone. Some of these reached us in Venice and Rome. They meant a great deal to us as we noted your thoughtfulness. Some of you may recall - this was a "re-run" experience for us, since Velma's mother passed away just before this opening dinner a year ago.

Now, let's look around the campus a little more. We see the footprints of our new lawns and grounds supervisor in flowers and shrubs and neatly-cut grass. Many of you have been busy with a kind of work that isn't quite as visible. Then you see the mounds of dirt, and if you're close enough, trenches for footings and
foundations. This is the food service and residence hall project. We had trouble just before we left for Europe — it almost spoiled an otherwise lovely voyage on the North German Lloyd Flagship T.S. Bremen. Our bids were too high. But we made some last-minute decisions, based on some possible changes, and then Bill Davis and Chuck Newman and Les Gerig and Tom Beers and others expedited a re-bidding procedure — and I can't tell you how much I appreciate their work — and the project was launched only a few weeks later than we had anticipated. Now, I'll level with you and share two very down-to-earth and not-so-pleasant facts:

(1) We had to withdraw from the plans some very nice items, like carpeting and air-conditioning and paving, hoping to find the necessary funds during the course of construction so we can reinstate these items by way of change-orders while building. Maybe you can help us do this. And, second, this is going to cramp our budget noticeably during the next two years. So, you department heads and others who have budget responsibility, please be careful and conservative and cautious — and even be considerate if Dr. Zimmerman or Mr. Davis looks over your shoulder and says, "Sorry 'bout that; there'll be no over-spending of budgets this year."

But we're thankful for the progress that is taking place under God's good guidance and blessing, and most of all we are thankful for you, the people of Taylor University, students, faculty, staff, trustees — it is still so true that Taylor is people — the people of what is rapidly coming to be known around the country as one of the best and most attractive small liberal arts colleges. Thanks to all of you.

Now, just a highlight or two from our summer. Many of you have already asked when we will make some report on the 18 countries we visited, and I know
most of you are most interested in the Balkan Adventure. With Velma's almost 500 slides and my 1,150 feet of movie film, we should be able to do this - but not tonight. We'll try not to burden or bore anyone with any unwanted reporting, but we will seriously try to create opportunities for sharing in ways you might enjoy.

Let me say we saw much beauty in seas and mountains and flowers and fountains, much history in monuments and cathedrals and palaces and castles, much suffering and sadness in people, oppression and tragedy in governments. Cities bombed out 25 years ago are still struggling to rebuild - some of them now comparing themselves with Rome, built on seven hills, and they with seven hills grown up out of the rubble and ruins of war.

We heard the complaints of those in the socialist countries where the average annual income is less than 1/10 of yours, and where the party line says "We, the government, own everything, control everything, furnish everything -- you are dependent on us, so why would you want a million dollars; why would you even want an automobile - you're not going anywhere."

And we saw the effects of revolutionary liberation as contrasted with liberty, and equality as contrasted with equal opportunity. Thanks, ladies, for yesterday, your be-nice-to-men-and-other-animals day as you dramatized your crusade for liberation. But we'd like to have you retrace our steps where women have been "liberated" to be equal with men - equal with men as streetcleaners, construction workers, hay-makers, manual laborers - while the men were engaged militarily. You know, in the socialist countries our guides fed us up to our ears with liberation -
but never once mentioned liberty; they boasted loudly of equality, the egalitarian kind, but never spoke of equal opportunity.

I pray God many Americans will wake up before we let the government do any more things for us, and before we go any further into socialism than we already are. I was impressed by one Scripture text as we watched socialistic systems and talked with the people, listening to the hard (memorized, of course) party line of our local guides. 11 Cor. 19 and 20 "You put up with fools so readily, you who know so much! You put up with a man who assumes control of your souls, with a man who spends your money, with a man who dupes you, with a man who gives himself airs, with a man who flies in your face." Most professing Christians in America don't know this is in the Bible, as they go headlong for more unearned welfare checks, uncropped farm payments, socialized medical care - and on and on.

I could get very warm here - but I'll close with a little human interest story that meant a great deal to Velma and me. We had landed at the airport in East Berlin at 12 noon. Because of red tape, planned confusion, cold-war type harassment, it was three o'clock before we had cleared passport control and customs. Then, because of the further examination of passports, mirror inspections of the under side of our bus, checking the luggage compartments for stowaways, and the slow and difficult zig-zaging through the three-feet-thick concrete barriers at the East Berlin-West Berlin check-point, it was 4:30 when we arrived at our hotel. West Berlin was our last mail stop, so we had our letters even before we left the lobby to check into our room. We tore open Wes' letter - and here are the first words we read - (read from the letter).

It is good to be back at Taylor.