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Important Visits and Distinguished Visitors (article for THE ECHO)

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IMPORTANT VISITS AND DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Dr. Milo A. Rediger

Again, in the spirit of sharing, let me talk to you about several important "educational visits" that are scheduled for this year. I refer to occasions when we are hosts of distinguished people, or people who hold positions and play distinguished roles in higher education. I speak to you with a degree of confidence because Taylor students and teachers are almost always good hosts. In fact, it is a rather common experience to hear guests comment on the unusual friendliness of everybody they meet in the buildings or on the walks. I am always grateful for these expressions of almost surprised appreciation, for I, too, greatly enjoy a friendly smile and a hearty greeting.

The inauguration ceremonies and the recent visit of Peter Arnott are fine examples of occasions which evoked many favorable expressions from guests. We "entertained" another important visitor during the first semester whose presence was almost overshadowed by inauguration activities. He was a representative of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, here to see how we are doing four years after our original approval by that body. He was with us for two or three days. Let us hope we were good hosts on that occasion.

Perhaps you ask, "Why are we not always 'warned' in advance of an important visit?" Usually you are, but in some cases the distinguished people prefer not to be announced but to meet and see us just as we really are when we have not been informed of their coming. As good hosts, we grant our visitors this courtesy too if they request it.

This does not make them "spies"; it makes them better evaluators of us and our program. I am grateful for the fact that these people are usually enthusiastically appreciative in their remarks. This is certainly complimentary to you.

Perhaps on occasion, which is the rare exception I am sure, we do not know how to respond or do not care enough to be the best hosts we can be. As an example, I refer to the reception which was given in honor of our spiritual emphasis week speaker, and for the purpose of giving him an opportunity to meet many of you on his first Sunday night here. I am embarrassed to report that only about fifteen or eighteen faculty members and twenty or thirty students responded. It was a grand "flop", and hardly short of an insult to the guest. Perhaps we should be more sensitive, more responsive and more responsible hosts at times like this.

We are yet to entertain many visitors before the semester ends. Some of these will rank as distinguished guests, some especially because of their role in education and because of the agencies they represent. I will mention two that are particularly important in the continuation and the further development of Taylor's educational stature and academic welfare.

On Friday, March 18, three men representing Associated Colleges of Indiana will be on campus. There will be no formal reception, and several trustees, administrative officials and faculty members will be directly responsible for the entertainment of these men. However, in a sense we will all be hosts and hostesses. Again, on Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, three other men will represent the North Central Association of Colleges in Taylor's regular ten-year review since accreditation in 1946. As you can see, the significance of these visits is first state-wide and then regional. I trust

the campus will be clean and the climate friendly as we entertain these distinguished visitors during these important visits. I thank you in advance for what I feel sure you will be and do.