

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON. R.G. MENZIES
AT INSTALLATION OF CHANCELLOR OF A.N.U., CANBERRA,
11TH APRIL, 1962

Chancellor, Your Excellency,

There is an old standing rule, Sir, that when I wear one of these things (doctor's cap) I am allowed to take it off when I speak. I introduce you to that rule at once. (Laughter)

There is also a standing order in the Parliament, up the street, against tedious repetition. It is, of course, consistently ignored. (Laughter) And I am going to ignore it this morning because having heard His Excellency, the Governor-General, I realised that there was really nothing more to do, in all honesty, than to stand up and say "I concur and have nothing to add". But having said that of course I will break the rule myself and add a little.

I think that it is a magnificent thing, a very appropriate thing, that this University, which was not created as something local, or limited, but was designed to achieve world standards, and perhaps world influence in many spheres, should have had, as its previous Chancellor, one who - I repeat what has been said - is probably the outstanding Australian of our time, and now should have one of the world-famous scientists of our time.

It may be that there will be some who think that for you to come out here Mr. Chancellor from far away is something odd - you know we are all familiar with the slogan "What's wrong with the local boys?". All I want to say, Sir, as one of the "local boys", is that I was enthusiastic when I heard that you were willing to take this post and that is just because of the reason I ventured to mention: that this University must, if it is to justify our hopes, become a world famous centre of learning and, particularly in its advanced studies make contributions to knowledge which will run right round the world into the minds of men and women of different races, and of different tongues.

Therefore, this, as we see it, is a University possessing already - and will more and more do so of course - an international quality, a quality which over-rides the mere boundaries of a State or, for that matter, of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Therefore, we do ourselves great honour when we have, as our Chancellor, a man whose name is known not only here, not only in Great Britain, but known right round the world of science.

Just imagine what it will mean to many people in this institution, engaged in scientific work of any kind, to be able, periodically, to sit down with the present Chancellor and discuss some of their problems. I don't think it is always realised what a tremendous thing it is in all branches of knowledge for younger men to have the opportunity of associating in a personal fashion with great scholars, with famous men. Some of the glory rubs off on them. It is something that they remember. It is something which serves as an inspiring force in their work, and in their lives.

And so it is a splendid thing that we should have here, once more, a famous man. He stepped into our minds and into our hearts ready made, so to speak, because many of us have had the pleasure of knowing him before. To those who haven't, his fame has preceded him. He is here, not only among scholars, not only among experts in his own field; he is here in a community that already has a profound respect for him and will have even greater gratitude as time goes on. (Applause)