

A THIRD EYE IS ALSO IMPORTANT!

AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGINEERS

"There will be ample opportunities for many years to come for young engineers after graduation to choose a career in Government where you will help in the great task of implementing our National Development Programme said Tun Razak when he addressed the Engineering Society of the University of Malaya on 28th August, 1965. as follows:

Our country needs an almost unlimited number of engineers, young Malaysians, dedicated to the application of modern technical skills, and as Professor Chin Fung Kee pointed out in his address last year, we also need an increasing number of technicians and craftsmen.

I am interested to note his figures, that it is reckoned for developing countries like ours that there should be about five technicians and 25 craftsmen to every engineer.

I understand that the Technical Division of the Ministry of Education are tackling this problem of the production of human technical talents so that our future development will not be hampered by lack of technical skills.

If these trained technicians and craftsmen are not produced quickly you young engineers will be like an Army of Generals with no troops to command!

I was very glad to hear your President saying that "you must not only think, when you leave your University, of your degree, but you must be also conscious of your responsibilities to society and that in addition to your academic studies, you should participate actively in debates, in the Students Union, in sports and other extramural activities.

I know that as University students you have got to have a balance between hard work and must not let your extramural studies interfere with your work but it is not difficult to strike the balance. It can be overdone, of course.

I remember the story of a visiting Professor to a certain **University** who congratulated the Vice-Chancellor and said: 'Permit me to congratulate you and your University which has in recent years become a store-house of knowledge'.

The Vice-Chancellor replied: 'That is true, but I do not deserve the credit for that. It is simply that fresh-men bring so much knowledge in when they arrive in the University and the graduates, when they leave, take so little knowledge out of the University, when they graduate, because they spend all their time on social activities! Therefore we have a great store of knowledge left in the University!'

However, quite seriously, exercises for recruitment of graduates both to Government service and to the private sector, commercial firms, have recently shown that there is a tendency on the part of those seeking employment after they leave University to think that they are only judged on the quality of their degree and the standard of their academic qualifications!

I think all of you here tonight should, and must remember, that when the time comes for you to be conferred with your degree and then enter the very competitive stream of selection for employment, your potential employers do admittedly, in the first place look for a high standard of academic qualification; but also these selection boards, whether they be Government, or private, are like the story of a Buddhist Lama in Tibet who is gifted with a third eye!

The first two eyes judge professionally, academically. and the third eye sums you up as a potential personality that will fit in to the mosaic and the structure of the organization in which you are seeking employment!

And even if you have the finest academic qualifications in the world, but have no personality, no potential qualities of leadership. (unless of course you are applying for a back-room job of research), you will not be given the appointment to which you think, with your academic qualifications alone, you are able to fill

I do not wish to disparage the system of higher education in Universities but it has happened on occasions, and let us face facts, that the men with lesser qualifications, who used their opportunities in University to mix socially, to take part in sports, and in debates and. by so doing, have become balanced, pleasant and positive personalities: in other words, to develop into potential leaders -quite often get better jobs than those who spent their University days buried entirely in books.

Your training as an engineer gives you the ability to handle machines but. looking to your future prospects, your job and technique of handling human beings are more important for obtaining from them the best results, on your engineering project.

Therefore your President was right when he said that members of your Society must take part in social activities of your University so that you will be equipped, when you leave the University not only to advance yourself, in your own career, not only to advance in your own profession, but also to make a contribution towards the advancement and progress of Malaysia because Malaysia needs leaders in every sphere at every level and in every way of life.

IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN PROGRESS OF THE NATION

Tun Razak. at the opening ceremony of the Faculty of Medicine. University of Malaya. Kuala Lumpur, on 2nd August. 1965. praised all those who helped to make this project a success. He brought home the fact that those buildings are not just concrete and steel but pregnant with meaning because they are the physical aspects of an all-round philosophy of medicine.

During the past eight years there has been a phenomenal growth in our University) here. In 1956 the whole of this Pantai Valley was nothing but tree-clad hills. Today it is clustered around with a whole complex of buildings, of faculties, of administrative blocks and students' hostels. The growth of this University is one of the many examples of the tremendous progress that this country Has made since independence.

A Teaching Hospital is in construction soaring to the sky; and bulldozers are busy day and night clearing sites for new developments already planned and worked out for this great Medical Centre. This is a typical example of the progress that has taken place in this University for the last 7 or 8 years. The fact that these acts of inauguration are belated is for me. however, a fine tribute and a splendid compliment to the tremendous achievements of all concerned.