

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, March 19, 1970.  
John P. Roberts.

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Mr. Treasurer,

The Honourable John Parmenter Roberts deserves to receive the highest honour The Law Society of Upper Canada has to give because he has, through a potent alliance of constructive industry with practical imagination improved the educational system of this Province, set an example of service to the public through his devotion to the highest political ideals and brought honour to his own profession by his leadership in the initiation of progressive Legislation.

Before graduating from The University of Western Ontario with academic honours, he also achieved distinction as an athlete. Later, during the war, he again won distinction as a naval officer in the engagement at Salerno in 1943.

As many eminent men have done in preparation for a life of political attainment, John Parmenter Roberts read law at Osgoode Hall. He was Called to the Bar of Ontario in June, 1947 and in 1954 was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel Learned in the Law.

First elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1951, his reliable judgement and steady energy were soon recognized by his appointment to the cabinet and to the important post of Minister of Education. He shaped the plan which has enhanced the quality and augmented the effectiveness of secondary school education in this Province. In 1961 Mr. Roberts became the Leader of the Government of Ontario and in this conspicuous and influential office, frequently concerned with the sensitive relationships among the Provinces of Canada, he has attracted respectful attention by employing a forthright diplomacy and demonstrating a thorough understanding of constitutional problems no less urgent than complex.

Mr. Treasurer, I request you to exercise the authority vested in you by Convocation to admit The Honourable John Parmenter Roberts to the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa.