

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, April 10, 1981.



Mr. Treasurer ~ ~

It is my pleasant duty to present to you and to this Convocation The Honourable Mr. Justice Willard Zebedee Estey of the Supreme Court of Canada and to request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Those fresh and restless qualities of mind and temperament which led him to continue at Harvard Law School the legal education he had founded in his native Saskatchewan caused him during his years of military service to be singled out for unwelcome staff appointments which he was more than once at pains to avoid, preferring at all hazard a directly active role.

Resuming his civil responsibilities after the war he became, as teacher and practitioner, at once the master and exponent of the law through which he served a wide and varied public, while by forthright eloquence his irreverent wit and sympathetic understanding gained him a formidable reputation as the enemy of pretention and champion of the causes of humanity and common sense.

Through a remarkable series of judicial appointments, first to The Court of Appeal for Ontario, then as Chief Justice of The High Court of Justice for Ontario, next as Chief Justice of Ontario and then to the Supreme Court of Canada, his outstanding abilities have been secured to the benefit of his country.

He is deserving of the highest honour the Society has to give and I request you, Sir, to confer upon The Honourable Mr. Justice Willard Zebedee Estey the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.