

LSU Community Radio Address 1940

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Ladies and Gentlemen of the Radio Audience, Alumni and Friends
of Louisiana State University:

The past three weeks have marked an exceptionally busy period on the campus of the University -- weeks of excitement for thousands of new students; weeks of collegiate triumph for sophisticated sophomores, returning for the unique experience of becoming upper-classmen; a period of orientation, registration, planning and settling down for the serious business of the eightieth academic session, which already is well under way. The scenes that have been enacted on the Campus of Louisiana State University during the past three weeks, are but the replica of countless other similar scenes that are taking place on many a college campus in these United States. American youth, with ambition and self-reliance, undaunted and unafraid, during a period of unparalleled world crisis, are entering again into our institutions of higher learning, confident of educational opportunities there awaiting them -- confident of what the future holds in store. But beneath it all one can somehow imperceptibly note a tone of serious resolution in these students -- perhaps a growing realization that theirs is an opportunity under our democratic way of life, an opportunity that is not enjoyed by youth in many other distant lands. One can observe almost a determination on their parts to accept more seriously the correlative responsibilities accompanying the privileges which are theirs. It is our sincere belief that this attitude will find itself reflected in a higher standard of student achievement which should contribute toward making the current session

one of the most successful years in Louisiana State University's recent history.

As alumni and friends of the University, you will be interested to know that the enrollment for the first semester of this year will reach a little more than six thousand on the main campus in Baton Rouge, and the aggregate total, including registration at the Medical Center in New Orleans and at the two Junior Colleges, at Lake Charles and Monroe, will probably go to seventy-four hundred for the first semester, as compared with seventy-seven hundred for the corresponding period of last year. It is hoped that this slight decline in the number of students may indicate the approach of a period of desirable stabilization of University enrollment, making it possible for the University to devote more time to its long-range plans for strengthening the work of all divisions and departments of the University. Such plans are now being actively formulated under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, which body was recently reorganized pursuant to statutory provisions adopted at the past session of the Louisiana Legislature.

In fact, as one looks at the entire University picture, it may be confidently and truthfully said that the outlook for the University is exceptionally bright at the present time; the comprehensive Survey Report of the special Commission of the American Council on Education will receive early consideration of the Board of Supervisors, and it is expected that action will be taken on a number of the more important recommendations in the near future. As evidence of the ever-present desire of the University to serve in an expanded sphere, there has recently been inaugurated a program in Latin-American relations designed to emphasize in this day of western hemisphere solidarity,

the importance of improving cultural and economic relations with the nations of South and Central America. Active efforts are being made to consider a wide variety of University problems, to make the entire program of the University more efficient in all divisions and departments. The administrative officers of your University -- the faculty and the student body -- are all working harmoniously together with a common spirit and a cooperative purpose to make the academic session of 1940-1941 a constructive year of real accomplishment.