

Young Mens Business Clubs

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Mr. Toastmaster, distinguished
guests, Your Excellency Governor
Leche, Members of the Young Mens
Business Clubs :

On behalf of the administration
of the University, it is a
distinct pleasure to welcome to
our campus the distinguished young
Democratic Senator from West
Virginia and also it is a privilege
to greet the members of the Young
Mens Business Clubs in State
Convention Assembled.

President Smith, who was
scheduled to make a few remarks
at this luncheon, has asked me
particularly to express to you his
keen regret that he was detained
out of town and for this reason he
is unable to be here today.

The Louisiana State University,
dedicated as it is, to the rendering
of educational service to the youth
of the State of Louisiana, as an
institution, is much interested in
the achievements of your organizati
on, composed as it is, of the

more youthful business men of the State, working harmoniously together in the solution of problems of civic and public importance.

We are glad to have you on our campus today, because it gives you an opportunity to see something of the University and enables you to have a better appreciation of the work that is being accomplished by the greater Louisiana State University.

Our University is an old institution, with venerable traditions and many historical associations, but in the past ten years there has been a rebirth of energy and enthusiasm in connection with the University- so that today, as an institution, we actually feel as youthful as Senator Hold and our own splendid young Governor Dick Leche.

When the University was moved to this new campus in 1925, we had only 1712 students; this year we have 6800 students on this campus and a total university enrollment, including the Medical School in New Orleans and the Northeast Center at Monroe, of some 8000 students. Such rapid growth in the student body has necessitated repeated expansion of the physical plant; the interest and enthusiasm of the late Senator Long- himself a young man- was responsible for much of the building program by making funds available to start the expansion program. Governor Leche has taken up the program. During the past seven years between eight and ten million dollars have been expended in necessary additions to the plant.

The funds were provided partly from the sale of some of the old property to the State, partly from the sale of bonds, and partly from direct grants made by the Federal and State Govts.

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While you are on the campus today, we hope that you will have the time to drive around and take a look at the physical plant of the University.

At the present time we have ~~under~~ under construction, in addition to a large dormitory unit, the new law school building - Leche Hall - which, when completed, will be one of the finest buildings of its type in the country.

The great agricultural center - designed to accommodate the College of Agriculture and the important work of the Agricultural Experiment Stations is rapidly nearing completion. The Agricultural Center has an auditorium capable of accommodating 7500 people - to be used for fairs and important agricultural exhibits. Its value to the agricultural industry of the State will be ~~in~~ incalculable.

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We hope that many of you may find time to pay us another visit in November, on the occasion of our Parish fair - which will be held in the auditorium. We will, at that time, have the greatest livestock and rodeo attractions ever put on in the South.

Those of us who are connected with the University and who are so interested in its progress and bright future as the south's fastest growing educational institution, on occasions such as this, always threaten to talk too long, when we get on the subject of the University- there is so much to be said.

I will, therefore, take no more of your time- but in closing, I again bid you thrice welcome to the campus- we hope that you will come again.