

TODAY WE FOLLOW, TOMORROW WE LEAD

Today we follow, tomorrow we lead. When our senior class adopted this as our class motto, some of us weren't fully aware of the significance of these words. To a few it may have meant just another motto which was selected because it was the tradition of each graduating class to have one, but to most I'm sure, it presented a totally different aspect toward life.

For the past twelve years we have been taking things more or less for granted and depending a great deal upon our elders for suggestions, aid, and guidance. After tonight, however, everything will be on an entirely different basis.

Upon receiving our diplomas this evening, we can no longer be classified as students, but we will step out as adults into an entirely new and different world—a world which is full of many baffling and complex problems.

Undoubtedly, quite a few of us plan to relocate after graduation. This is indeed a very fine and wonderful opportunity. Others will remain behind in camp for some length of time and it is to these people in particular that I would like to address my speech this evening.

We all know, only too well, that camp life is very boring and monotonous. But through our active community leaders, our life here has been built up and made so much more interesting and worthwhile than it would have been otherwise.

Fortunately for them, but unfortunately for us, a great number of these capable leaders are continually leaving the project; consequently leaving us without persons to guide us in our community activities. Therefore, it will be up to the present senior class to take over and carry on with this unusually tremendous job.

So many wonderful and useful opportunities for leadership, service, and personal development are being offered that everyone should take advantage of them as much as possible. Jobs at the base hospital, recreation halls, schools, civic affairs, and in the government of our camp are just a few of which are open. Statistically speaking, there are one hundred eighty-three different types of jobs within this project.

No person need get discouraged nor disheartened in his job merely because of the low wage scale for wages are, in reality, of very minor importance, especially during times like these. What is money compared to the increased knowledge and educational value derived from your work and experience? Wouldn't it prove much better in the long run if we could learn to adjust ourselves to the environment and society here, for if we can, it would be so much easier for us to do so in other circumstances?

Now, as we the class of 1943 graduate from Tri-State High School, there is a challenge before us to create a better world to live in through higher education. Tonight, as we graduate, we have completed our first twelve years of this training under the kind, patient and excellent guidance of our teachers. Let us so develop our lives in the education before us so that we may meet this challenge and completely execute our motto, "Today we follow, Tomorrow we lead."

-- Paul Ohmura