

June 5, 1966

JOHN PRESCOTT RODERICK:

Veteran of twenty years' foreign service with the Associated Press, you are warmly welcome as you return to your native town and your college for this thirtieth reunion of the Colby Class of 1936. You first joined the Associated Press shortly after your graduation, and after several years of domestic assignments on the east coast of the United States, and a three-year tour of military duty, you resumed your journalistic career in the more inaccessible Far East, where you have become a world-recognized authority. You were among the first American newsmen to assess the Communist situation in China, interviewing Mao-tze-Tung and other leaders during those crucial years leading up to 1948. After a period in the Middle East and Europe, you returned to Asia, covering the war in Indo-China and the emergence of the State of South Vietnam. After a period as Chief of Bureau in Hong Kong you were assigned in 1959 to Tokyo. Your by-line has become familiar in the world's press, and your talents were appropriately recognized by your peers when they elected you president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. Life at their legendary headquarters, Number One Shimbun Alley, in one of the world's most colorful and exotic cities, has since you assumed this post been characterized by a lively vitality. Colby and Waterville salute their native son with admiration and pride.

By the authority of the Board of Trustees of Colby College, I confer upon you, JOHN PRESCOTT RODERICK, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters honoris causa. The hood with which you have been invested and this diploma which I place in your hand are the visible symbols of your membership in this society of scholars, to all the rights and privileges of which I declare you entitled.