

TRIBUTE TO DR. HOWARD C. CLARK AND  
DR. I JOY DICKSON-CLARK ON THE OCCASION OF  
DR. CLARK'S RETIREMENT  
AS PRESIDENT OF DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR HOWARD CHARLES CLARK, B.SC. (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND), M.SC. (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND), PH.D. (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND), PH.D. (CAMBRIDGE), SC.D. (CAMBRIDGE), IS A NAME TO BE USED ONLY ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE. AND ON THE INSIDE, IT'S JUST PLAIN HOWARD. BECAUSE OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS WE HAVE COME TO KNOW AND HOLD IN GREAT AFFECTION THE DECENT, CIVILIZED HUMAN BEING UNDER THAT SOMEWHAT AUSTERE, IVORY TOWER COUNTENANCE, A MAN WITH A BROAD AND GENUINE INTEREST IN THE WHOLE WORLD AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN IT.

I WAS FORTUNATE, ALONG WITH OUR PRESENT BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR, AND FIVE OTHERS, TO BE ON THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR A NEW DALHOUSIE PRESIDENT IN 1985. WHEN WE SET OUT ON OUR TASK, WE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT WE WANTED IN OUR NEW LEADER. A TOP SCHOLAR WITH SUPERB ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS, A SOCIAL ANIMAL WITH CLOUT IN THE BOARD ROOMS AND SKILL ON THE GOLF COURSE, A POLITICALLY ASTUTE AND POLITICALLY CORRECT PERSON ABOUT TOWN AND, TO TOP IT OFF, A FORCEFUL

LEADER WITH A COMMANDING PRESENCE. IN OTHER WORDS, PERFECT GOD AND PERFECT MAN.

WE HELD FIFTY-SIX MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS DALHOUSIE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS TO SOUND OUT CAMPUS OPINION. WE CONCOCTED LIST AFTER LIST OF ALL THE CANDIDATES WHO MIGHT FIT OUR BILL OF PARTICULARS. WE HAD EVERYONE ON IT FROM PIERRE TRUDEAU TO DON CHERRY. EVENTUALLY WE REALIZED NO ONE, LIVING OR DEAD, COULD MEET OUR EXACTING STANDARDS. SO WE BEGAN ASSIGNING WEIGHTS TO THE CATEGORIES OF EXCELLENCE WE REQUIRED. OUR CHOSEN CANDIDATE WOULD HAVE TO PASS EVERY TEST, OF COURSE -- AND WITH FLYING COLOURS, ESPECIALLY ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY. BUT WHAT WAS THE SINGLE, MOST IMPORTANT ASSET A NEW LEADER FOR DALHOUSIE MUST HAVE?

WE DECIDED THE NUMBER ONE ASSET WAS A FIRST CLASS ACADEMIC RECORD. WE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT, REPEATEDLY, IN OUR FIFTY-SIX CAMPUS MEETINGS, AND WE OURSELVES BELIEVED IT TO BE ESSENTIAL IF WE WERE TO KEEP ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT THE CENTRE OF DALHOUSIE'S FUTURE.

AND IN HIS ACADEMIC WORK HOWARD CLARK HAS REACHED THE VERY HIGHEST LEVELS.

LET ME NAIL UP SOME PEGS TO HANG THAT STATEMENT ON. HOWARD IS, OF COURSE, A RESEARCH CHEMIST BY PROFESSION. HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE RECOGNIZED HIM AS A LEADER IN THE FIELD. IN 1962 HE WAS ELECTED A FELLOW OF THE CHEMICAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA, AND IN 1975 AS A FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA. THEN IN 1983 HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE CHEMICAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA. HE SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF FOUR CHEMICAL JOURNALS, AND GENERAL EDITOR OF ONE, THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF CHEMISTRY. HE HAS SERVED ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION. FROM 1957 TO 1990 THERE NEVER WAS A DAY WHEN HE DIDN'T HOLD A RESEARCH GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OR THE NATURAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA. TO TOP IT ALL OFF, IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE SCIENCE DEGREES I HAVE ALREADY RECITED, HE HAS BEEN AWARDED TWO HONOURARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES, FROM VICTORIA AND GUELPH UNIVERSITIES.

BUT THE GUTS OF HIS WORK IN CHEMISTRY IS OF COURSE TO BE FOUND IN HIS 245 PUBLISHED PAPERS ON A HOST OF SCINTILLATING TOPICS SUCH AS THESE:

- ▶ "DIPHENYLTRIFLUOROMETHYLPHOSPHINE AND COMPLEX FORMATION BY PHENYLTRIFLUOROMETHYLPHOSPHINES";
  
- ▶ "MAGNETIC RESONANCE SPECTRA OF DIMETHYL 1-1, 1, 2, 2 - TETRAFLUOROETHYL TIN HYDRIDE, DIMETHYLBIS (1,1,2,2 - TETRAFLUOROETHYL) TIN, AND DIMETHYLTIN DIHYDRIDE"; AND
  
- ▶ "NOVEL THROUGH-SPACE HYDROGEN-FLUORINE SPIN-SPIN COUPLING IN SOME FIVE-COORDINATE PLATINUM(II) FLUORO-OLEFIN COMPLEXES STABILIZED BY THE HYDROTRIS - (1-PYRAZOLYL) BORATE LIGAND".

I OF COURSE READ ALL HOWARD'S 245 SCIENTIFIC PAPERS IN PREPARATION FOR THIS TRIBUTE TONIGHT. BUT I WILL REFER IN DETAIL TO ONLY THREE.

THE FIRST, FROM 1977, IS:

"STEREOCHEMICAL CHANGES ... DURING THE INSERTION OF ACETYLENES WITH PLATINUM (II) HYDRIDES."

NOW, I DON'T UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT THIS PROCEDURE ENTAILS, BUT IT SOUNDS EXTREMELY PAINFUL.

THE SECOND, FROM BACK IN 1971, IS:

"REACTIVITY OF ... EXCHANGE REACTIONS INVOLVING METAL-METAL BOND CLEAVAGE."

NOW THAT I DO I UNDERSTAND; AND IT SOUNDS MUCH MORE AGREEABLE, IF A LITTLE RISQUÉ.

FINALLY, THIS ONE. IT IS THE ONLY ONE OF THE 245 PAPERS IN WHICH I HAVE DETECTED AN ERROR. HERE IT IS, FROM 1972:

"TRIFLUOROMETHYL PLATINUM COMPLEXES AND THE NATURE OF THE PC-CCF BOND."

NOW HOWARD, YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THE CCF HAD ALREADY CHANGED ITS NAME TO THE NDP IN 1961, ELEVEN YEARS BEFORE YOU WROTE YOUR PAPER!

BESIDES, SO FAR AS I AM AWARE, THERE NEVER WAS A PC-CCF BOND; AND I'M QUITE SURE THERE NEVER WILL BE A PC-NDP BOND. (COME TO THINK OF IT, GIVEN THE PRESENT

UNFRIENDLY STATE OF AFFAIRS ON HOLLIS STREET AND ON THE RIDEAU CANAL, MAYBE A PC-NDP BOND IS NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL. BUT I DIGRESS...)

WE HUMANS DON'T LIKE CHANGE VERY MUCH. A GOOD EXAMPLE IS EVELYN WAUGH, PERHAPS OUR CENTURY'S MOST ACCOMPLISHED NOVELIST, A CONSERVATIVE REACTIONARY AND A CELEBRATED CURMUDGEON. AT AGE THIRTY HE CONVERTED TO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND LIKE MANY CONVERTS HE BECAME A ZEALOT. WHEN THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL BROUGHT FORTH WRENCHING CHANGE, ESPECIALLY IN THE FORMS OF WORSHIP, WAUGH WAS OUTRAGED. AT AN AUDIENCE WITH POPE JOHN XXIII IN 1966 HE BEGAN TO RANT AND RAVE AGAINST THE PERNICIOUS EFFECTS OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK. THE POPE LAID A GENTLY RESTRAINING HAND ON HIS ARM AND SAID: "BUT MR. WAUGH, I TOO AM A CATHOLIC."

UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, BEING HUMAN, ARE ALSO SET IN THEIR WAYS. BUT WE ON THE 1985 PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE BELIEVED BIG CHANGE WOULD COME, AND SOON, IN THE WAKE OF DEEP REDUCTIONS IN GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR UNIVERSITIES. AND THIS WAS BOUND TO CAUSE GREAT CONSTERNATION AS ESTABLISHED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND LONG-SERVING PROFESSORS CAME UNDER FIRE. WE FELT IT

ESSENTIAL, WHEN THE HARSH BUT NECESSARY DECISIONS ISSUED FORTH FROM THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION, THAT OUR NEW PRESIDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAY TO HIS COLLEAGUE: "I, TOO, AM A SCHOLAR."

BUT, OF COURSE, IN HOWARD WE GOT MUCH MORE THAN A MERE SCHOLAR, INTERESTED ONLY IN INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS FOR THEIR OWN SAKE, WITHOUT A CARE FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD. HOWARD HAS A TRULY GLOBAL OUTLOOK. HE HAS SERVED ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST IN FULL. SO I WILL JUST GIVE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OF CANADA
  
- ▶ CHAIR OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT IN INDONESIA
  
- ▶ CHAIR OF THE HALIFAX-DARTMOUTH UNITED WAY COMMUNITY NEEDS TASK FORCE

- ▶ CONVENOR OF THE HALIFAX CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR UNIVERSITIES
  
- ▶ SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR UNIVERSITIES TO THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT; AND
  
- ▶ MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT'S COMMITTEE ON STUDENT MOBILITY AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

COMMITTED AS HE WAS TO THE PRINCIPLE OF CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, OUR PRESIDENT THEN TOOK ACTION. HE CARVED OUT A LARGER NICHE FOR DALHOUSIE IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE WAS A KEY PLAYER IN SETTING UP THE LESTER B. PEARSON CHAIR IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY AND DALHOUSIE, THE FIRST AND ONLY JOINT CHAIR OXFORD HAS EVER HAD WITH ANOTHER UNIVERSITY IN ITS 750 YEAR HISTORY. HERE AT DALHOUSIE HE CHAMPIONED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN BLACK CANADIAN STUDIES, GREATER ACCESS FOR DISADVANTAGED GROUPS SUCH AS NOVA SCOTIA BLACKS AND MI'KMAQS, AND BETTER RECOGNITION FOR WOMEN.



IN SHORT, HOWARD PUSHED DALHOUSIE'S GATES OPEN WIDER THAN BEFORE. OUR UNIVERSITY NOW PERFORMS A LARGER ROLE ON THE WORLD STAGE. AND HERE AT HOME MORE STUDENTS FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD, AND FROM ALL SEGMENTS OF OUR OWN SOCIETY, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO JOIN US IN THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP.

HOWARD TRULY BELIEVES IN THE IDEA OF EDUCATION IN THE SERVICE OF ALL MANKIND.

BUT THERE IS EVEN MORE. HOWARD HAD BEEN HEAD OF HIS DEPARTMENT AT WESTERN FOR TEN YEARS, AND ACADEMIC VICE PRESIDENT AT GUELPH FOR ANOTHER TEN. SO WE KNEW WHEN HE CAME TO DAL THAT HOWARD WAS A COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR; BUT WE DIDN'T APPRECIATE UNTIL LATER THAT HE IS A TRUE MASTER OF THIS COMPLEX ART. AND SO TODAY, DALHOUSIE'S RELATIONSHIPS ARE MORE SOLID ON ALMOST EVERY FRONT -- WITH FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS, ALUMNI, DONORS.

HOW WAS HOWARD ABLE TO WIN THIS ADMINISTRATIVE SUCCESS? THERE WERE TWO KEYS:

- ▶ HARD WORK (GOOD HEAVENS, HE WAS SO DOGGED AND PERSISTENT ON DALHOUSIE'S BEHALF THAT HE

OFTEN LOOKED POSITIVELY HAGGARD FROM OVERWORK!); AND, SECOND,

- ▶ TREATING EVERYONE WITH FAIRNESS AND DIGNITY. YOU CAN'T FAKE THESE QUALITIES; YOU HAVE THEM ONLY IF YOU CARRY IN YOUR HEART A GENUINE RESPECT FOR YOUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS. BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE DALHOUSIE'S WALLS, HOWARD HAS HONOURED US BY LIVING THESE QUALITIES IN EVERYTHING HE DID.

AND HOW IS HOWARD CLARK VIEWED OUTSIDE DALHOUSIE? IN MY ROLE AS MANAGING TRUSTEE OF THE KILLAM ESTATE I MEET EACH YEAR WITH THE SENIOR PEOPLE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, THE MONTREAL NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY AND THE CANADA COUNCIL, AS WELL AS DALHOUSIE. I CAN TELL YOU HOWARD CLARK IS LOOKED UPON AS THE TOP OF THE CLASS IN THIS COUNTRY. AND I CAN ALSO REPORT THAT A DALHOUSIE DEGREE IS SEEN FROM COAST TO COAST AS ONE OF THE BEST. UNDER HOWARD CLARK, DALHOUSIE HAS CONSISTENTLY PUNCHED FAR ABOVE ITS WEIGHT CLASS.

THE JOB OF ENTREPRENEUR, OR CEO OF AN ESTABLISHED COMPANY, IS PRETTY TOUGH THESE DAYS. IF YOU DON'T RUN FASTER THAN THE BEARS RUNNING AFTER YOU, YOU GET EATEN UP. MEDICAL DOCTORS, WHO LITERALLY HOLD LIFE AND DEATH IN THEIR HANDS, ENDURE STRESS LEVELS MOST OF US COULDN'T TAKE -- ESPECIALLY THESE DAYS, WHEN THE BEARS CHASING THEM ARE USUALLY WEARING LEGAL GOWNS. EVEN LAWYERS DON'T HAVE IT AS EASY AS THEY ONCE DID, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH PUBLIC DUTIES, LIKE CROWN PROSECUTORS, OR COUNSEL IN CONTROVERSIAL TRIALS WHERE THE JOURNALISTS HAVE A FIELD DAY. AND WHAT ABOUT JOURNALISTS THEMSELVES? TO STAY IN BUSINESS THEY MUST SOMEHOW CAPTURE THE INTEREST OF THE MASSES. BUT AT THE SAME TIME (IF THEY ARE TO BE HONOURABLE) THEY MUST REFRAIN FROM ABUSING THEIR ENORMOUS POWER JUST TO EARN A PROFIT.

BUT LET'S BE FRANK: THE JOB OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT TODAY, ESPECIALLY A UNIVERSITY WITH MANY GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS AND UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS, IS MORE DIFFICULT THAN ANY OF THESE. IT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT, DEMANDING -- AND YET THANKLESS -- JOB IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY. THE ONLY EQUIVALENTS I CAN THINK OF ARE THE PRIESTHOOD AND LEADERSHIP OF A POLITICAL PARTY.

UNDER HOWARD CLARK, DALHOUSIE HAS RECRUITED A TALENTED AND FAR-SIGHTED GROUP OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERS TO ITS BOARD OF GOVERNORS, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, FUND-RAISING COMMITTEES AND OTHER VOLUNTEER BODIES WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY. BUT THEY WOULD BE THE FIRST TO AGREE, I AM SURE, THAT THE RANGE OF FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, HUMAN RELATIONS AND INTELLECTUAL PROBLEMS THAT DAILY BOMBARD UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS MAKES THEIR OWN JOBS LOOK EASY BY COMPARISON. HOW FORTUNATE FOR US -- PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, ALUMNI AND ALL WHO SAIL WITH DALHOUSIE -- TO BE EXPOSED TO THE COMPLEX, EXCITING, CHALLENGING WORLD OF THE MODERN UNIVERSITY. ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US, HOWARD, THANK YOU FOR THAT OPPORTUNITY.

NOT ONLY IS THE JOB OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT DIFFICULT, BUT I GO FURTHER. I SAY THE JOB OF PRESIDENCY OF DALHOUSIE IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT JOB IN NOVA SCOTIA. IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE JOB OF PREMIER. THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ANY POLITICAL LEADER, HOWEVER WISE AND NOBLE, CAN MELT AWAY LIKE SNOW IN SUMMER WHENEVER THE POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL OR FISCAL CLIMATE CHANGES. BUT THE PRESIDENT OF NOVA SCOTIA'S LEADING HOUSE OF HIGHER LEARNING CAN SHAPE FOR A

LIFETIME THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF THE BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. AND THEY IN TURN WILL PASS ON THEIR LOVE OF LEARNING, THEIR SENSE OF DUTY TO THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS, THEIR VISION OF THEIR PROVINCE, THEIR COUNTRY AND THEIR WORLD, DOWN TO THE UTTERMOST GENERATIONS.

I WANT TO PAY TRIBUTE, TOO, TO DR. JOY I. DICKSON-CLARK. SHE HAS BEEN A TRUE AND LOYAL ASSOCIATE OF HOWARD'S IN THE TASK OF LEADING OUR UNIVERSITY. JOY IS OF COURSE A SCHOLAR IN HER OWN RIGHT, EARNING A PH.D. IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND KEEPING ACTIVE IN PLANT SCIENCE RESEARCH. BUT IT IS WHAT SHE HAS DONE FOR DALHOUSIE THAT WE SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER HER FOR. IN THE PAST DECADE SHE HAS FLUNG WIDE OPEN THE FRONT DOORS OF HER HOME TO THOUSANDS OF DALHOUSIANS AND FRIENDS OF DALHOUSIE. WHILE GLOBAL IN HER INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS, NOT A DETAIL ESCAPES HER WHEN IT COMES TO WELCOMING HER GUESTS.

I SAID AT THE BEGINNING THAT WE CHOSE HOWARD TO BE OUR PRESIDENT. BUT, YOU KNOW, HOWARD AND JOY CHOSE US JUST AS MUCH AS DALHOUSIE CHOSE THEM. I HOPE WE HAVE BEEN WORTHY OF THEM. HOWARD AND JOY, BY JOINING US, YOU HAVE HELPED US BECOME BETTER. YOU

HAVE MADE US MORE ABLE TO ATTRACT AND HOLD EXCELLENCE. IN FACT, I DON'T THINK DALHOUSIE'S PHAROS HAS EVER SHONE BRIGHTER IN THE WHOLE OF HER 177 YEARS THAN IT DOES TODAY. WE STILL FACE GRAVE DIFFICULTIES -- NO MAN OR WOMAN CAN SOLVE THEM ALL, NOR EVER COULD -- BUT WE FACE THEM STRONGER, FITTER, BETTER ABLE TO DEAL WITH THEM, BECAUSE YOU CHOSE US. WE ARE ALL PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL.

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