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Luther Terry speaks at the commencement exercises at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1964

Series title: University of Alaska Fairbanks commencement addresses and exercises

Luther Terry is introduced by President Wood. He is responsible for the nation's health. The office of surgeon general's warnings can have far-reaching consequences. Public health service started in 1898. It must have been much simpler in those days. It is now a complex job and has many functions. Surgeon General Luther Terry expressed his appreciation for the kindness shown to him during his visit throughout Alaska. When he was thinking about his trip to Alaska he remembered a song named April in Fairbanks. He said it was a great honor to receive an honorary degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He congratulated the graduates. He talked about his first visit to Alaska a few years ago. There is a new stability and resolution in the state. He talked about the admirable spirit in recovery after the March earthquake. He knew that many of the graduates will be a part of the recovery. He talked about the need for creative imagination and the importance of the university in Alaska and its contributions. He talked about his plans and objectives for health research and health services in the far North. How can health and sanitation and living conditions be improved? Between 1950 and 1960 eleven of Alaska's cities increased in population. He talked about the movement of Natives into the cities. He discussed the health problems in Alaska. Many of the health hazards are affected by the special characteristics of our special environment. The public health service is responsible for providing health care for Indians and 43,000 Alaska Natives. In Alaska they operate hospitals and health centers. They conduct field clinics. The Native population is several generations behind the rest of the United States in health problems, but progress has been made in the past decade. Death rates have decreased from TB. The success has been through the combined efforts of the Alaska Native Health Program, the Alaska Department of Health and the Arctic Health Research Center. The Public Health Service set up the Center in 1950 to collect information for healthful living in low-temperature areas. They are interested in water supply and sewage disposal in cold temperature areas, causes of communicable diseases and differences in the control of diseases between Alaska and the lower 48. They also devote studies to human physiology, nutrition and diseases in the arctic. The center is now in Anchorage and will soon be moved to the Fairbanks university campus. The Alaska Regional Laboratory for Water Pollution Control will be built on the campus. This facility is one of seven throughout the United States. They are designed to increase knowledge in this field so that we may cope with problems because of increased populations and more demand for water and dealing with waste. The usable water supply in Alaska is limited and many of the streams have wide fluctuations in flow. The laboratory will take a basic program of research and concentrate on regional problems. They will establish baselines of quality for developing water use for waterways most vital for economic growth. Alaska has a great opportunity for its total water plan for the years ahead. He compared it to the problems of the lower 48. They are fighting to meet growing demands on water. He is hopeful Alaska will develop more preventive measures to prevent many of the lower 48's problems. He hopes that many of the graduates will consider working in the life sciences. He feels the

world needs more health practitioners. Research and teaching open up endless possibilities. Alaska's history is a story of discover and rediscovery. The state and country need creative imagination. He wished the graduates good luck.

Elmer E. Rasmuson presents honorary doctorates to Luther Terry, Mr. Sasiama, and C. Earl Albrecht.