Before there were universities in Canada, the Indians had a saying that they handed down from generation to generation: Men teach less by what they say than by what they are. Reared according to that percept, Chief Dan George committed himself to leading his people by example — his pride in the Indian heritage would become their pride.

No one would deny that Chief Dan George has been extraordinarily successful in the white man's world. But on this occasion it is the man himself rather than the actor that we choose to honor: a man of dignity, wisdom and gentleness, a leader well qualified to guide his people caught in the throes of transition.

Many gathered here today have already met Chief Dan through his roles on the screen, as Chief Lodge Skins, Chief Joseph, or Ol' Antoine. Long before he became an actor, however, there were other names. When he was born on the Burrard Reserve seventy-three years ago, his grandmother named him Tsits-Wah-Nough for the blood of S-Tlall-a-watt chiefs runs in his veins. Later he himself became a chief and his people named him Nah-Wah-Nath — "the mendicant who goes about doing good."

If Chief Dan has had many names, he has also had many vocations. Leaving the mission school at age sixteen, he became a logger, worked for twenty-six years as a longshoreman, then returned to construction and logging. Finally, at an age when many men contemplate retirement, Chief Dan was renewed like the oolichan and became a television star.

1. The last "t" is emphasized to make a "tuh" sound. The word means "The Inlet People."

2. The oolichan is a small fish important in the economy of Coastal Indians. It comes into the inlets to spawn in spring.
In recent years this acting career has been extended to include films and the stage. It has won him the New York Film Critics Award for Best Supporting Actor of 1970 and this year's nomination for an Oscar for his role in *Little Big Man*.

A leader and inspiration to his people, Chief Dan has also been a benefactor to those in need. Earnings from his films have helped Indians living as far away as Peru. He has not hesitated to point out faults in urban white society which have degraded his people. Here in Vancouver, he has promoted hostels for Indians newly arrived from the reserves and better education for Indian young people. In a happier role, he has headed a group known as the "Dan George Singers and Dancers" for twenty-five years.

The Shuswap Tribe has recognized Chief Dan's contribution to Indian betterment by making him their honorary chief. The Canadian Council of Christians and Jews has also presented him with its national human relations award. Recently, too, Carson Graham Vocational School cited Chief Dan for special service to education, noting the encouragement he has given Indian young people.

Mr. Chancellor, I present to you Chief Dan George, a champion of his own people and an example to all Canadians, for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.