Mr. Chancellor:

When the intrepid Simon Fraser wintered in the interior of British Columbia, he met a group of Indians named "Takkali", a word meaning "carrier" or "navigator." Today, Simon Fraser University honors a man far removed from the culture of the Takkali yet one with them in spirit. Dr. Patrick McTaggart-Cowan, a man known to everyone assembled here today, has never hesitated to shoulder a man's load. And he is truly a navigator, for he has broken new territory in three widely separated careers: as a meteorologist in military and civilian service; as President of this University in its founding stages; and currently, as Executive Director of the Science Council of Canada.

There is not time today to enumerate all of Dr. McTaggart-Cowan's accomplishments during the quarter century he devoted to meteorology. A UBC graduate in mathematics and physics, and a Rhodes scholar, he spent the early part of his career in Gander, Newfoundland, where he was responsible for organizing and developing the meteorological service so essential to Atlantic flights and the delivery of aircraft. In 1942 he was seconded to the RAF; pilots ferrying planes across the Atlantic during the long years of the Second World War came to rely implicitly on his weather forecasts. From 1946 until he came to Simon Fraser, Dr. McTaggart-Cowan helped build Canada's meteorological service, acting as its Director from 1959.

Commanding the particular attention and gratitude of this gathering are the energy, vision, and courage Dr. McTaggart-Cowan devoted to Simon Fraser
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University. His time in office, while one of pressure and conflict, was more importantly one of great hopes and greater accomplishments. Under his tireless direction, construction proceeded on schedule despite weather that would daunt the most seasoned of weathermen, and a highly qualified teaching staff was assembled. Even before the University opened its doors to students, Dr. McTaggart-Cowan gained a reputation for keen intellect, abounding vitality and vigorous optimism. A colleague remarks, "He could do more work and get more things done than any man I've ever known."

With the commencement of classes, the University adopted a number of progressive measures: the trimester system, the oral as opposed to the literary approach to modern languages, and innovative programs in arts, athletics, and education. The President's days began at dawn and often stretched on into the night, yet the door of his office remained open to faculty and students alike. Difficulties arose, perhaps inevitably in a University which grew so quickly, but the McTaggart-Cowan era definitely placed Simon Fraser in the vanguard of Canadian universities.

Dr. McTaggart-Cowan's recent work with the Science Council shows him once again to be a man of his age, and indeed, a man for the Seventies. He has been cited particularly for the part he played in directing the cleanup of Canada's first major oil spill in Chedabucto Bay. The report which he prepared following this disaster has led to major amendments in the Shipping Act, an important step in lessening the danger of future spills.
Over the past twenty-five years, Dr. McTaggart-Cowan has received many honors and awards. I am certain, however, that he will receive this present honor with particular pleasure for he is now about to become a fully qualified alumnus of the University which he guided through the stages of birth and early childhood.

I present to you for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, Patrick McTaggart-Cowan.