Mr. Chancellor, as an ordinary degree is a formal indication of the completion of a period of dedication to the goals of a university, so an honorary degree is often a university's recognition of an individual's dedication to broader goals, goals that transcend more narrow academic pursuits. Today Harold Edward Winch is honoured by this university for his dedicated service to the people of British Columbia and Canada. His long membership in the Provincial and Federal Legislatures and his steadfast pursuit of those goals predicated upon his humanitarian principles are an example to present and aspiring politicians of every political hue.

It was outside the Vancouver City Hall in 1930 that Harold Winch, then twenty-three years of age, witnessed a clash between the police and the unemployed. Then and there he identified his cause and was ever more unrelenting in his pursuit. He joined the Socialist Party of Canada, he became Managing Editor of the socialist newspaper, The Clarion, and he participated in the founding of the CCF in 1932. In 1933 he was elected to the Provincial Legislature where he very quickly became the chief spokesman for the emerging left. His intense passion for reform inspired him to become an orator of such devastating power that SATURDAY NIGHT MAGAZINE was moved to write that "Winch in the heat and fury of house debate pounces like a lion on his prey."

His political adversaries painted him in rich red hue as the Bolshevik whose goal was revolution, but it was Harold Winch who in 1938 persuaded the sit-down strikers to vacate the Vancouver Art Gallery peacefully and later, by sheer oratorical power and conviction, prevented a riot outside the Vancouver Police Station. Although no lover of the capitalist system, he epitomized the principles of democratic socialism in his steadfast defense of parliamentary democracy and respect for duly constituted authority. Later, as a member of parliament, this allegiance to parliamentary forms was recognized when he was elected Canadian Vice-President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Elected to the Provincial Legislature in 1933, House Leader of the CCF in 1938 and Leader of the Opposition in 1941, he resigned his provincial seat in 1953 and was promptly elected to the Federal House. He retired undefeated in 1972. When he retired, he was not a mellowed radical whose fires had long been quenched by the traditional delights of Ottawa, but a man whose zeal and passion for social reform burned as brightly as they did on the pavements of Vancouver in 1938.

Because he is a man who, over four decades ago, set himself the task of serving those who labour with hand and brain, because he has been unswerving in his dedication to that task, I ask you, Mr. Chancellor, in recognition of his service and his example, to confer the degree Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, upon Harold Edward Winch.