Mr. Chancellor, Alan Herbert Emmott is one of those tireless and dedicated members of our community on which good government and order depend.

Educated in Kamloops, Fernie and Nelson, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees at the University of British Columbia. He served two tours of operation as a navigator with a Pathfinder Squadron while in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and received a Distinguished Flying Cross for his valour.

Returning to civilian life, he completed his education and became an English teacher at the Templeton Secondary School in Vancouver, later serving as head of that department.

In 1957, entering municipal politics, he was elected Reeve of Burnaby. The eleven years of his service as Reeve and Mayor were also the crucial years of the founding, building and consolidation of this University. Throughout that difficult period, he was an unfailing source of help to Simon Fraser University in the protracted negotiations over land transfer, provision of needed services and the other important matters which must be concluded in order to establish a modern university. While he was Mayor, Burnaby also underwent its period of fastest growth. The siting and creation of many of the Municipality’s parks, recreation sites, and public golf course all took place under his leadership and guidance.

He also served as Deputy Chairman of the Metro Joint Commission, President of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, President of the Greater Vancouver Tourist and Convention Bureau, Chairman of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, and as a Director of the Pacific National Exhibition, the Playhouse Theatre and the Vancouver Symphony Society. He also served as a Senator of this University. This is a prodigious record of public service. It is not difficult to see why Alan Emmott is widely recognized as someone who has made an outstanding contribution to his community.

On leaving the Mayor’s chair, he became an Associate of the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser for one year, lecturing on municipal affairs. In 1969, he was appointed to the staff of the Vancouver Technical School, where he taught Canadian history and law, until his retirement in 1981.

Since his retirement from teaching, he has continued to serve as an Alderman for Burnaby, as Director of the Vancouver Opera Association, and the B.C. Transit Authority, a member of the Rapid Transit Exposition Committee for 1986, and has continued his association with the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

Alan Emmott has quite rightly called our era the century of the city. The unprecedented movement of populations out of the country areas and small towns into our urban centres has created both great problems and great opportunities for municipal governments. As Mayor, he gave leadership to a growing Municipality and we thank him for his dedication and for his efforts.

We are pleased to award him an honorary degree for his work on behalf of this University, for the Municipality of Burnaby, and for all citizens of Greater Vancouver.

Mr. Chancellor, I now ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon Alan Herbert Emmott the title and degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.