If, to paraphrase Rudyard Kipling, "you can dream - and not make dreams your master," you can achieve anything. The young Edward Schreyer dreamt of being first a mountie and then a professional baseball player. Fortunately for his country, he mastered these dreams and dreamt instead of being a university professor and a politician. After taking four degrees at the University of Manitoba, he realized both dreams at once by teaching political science and international relations at the University, while at the same time serving in the Manitoba legislature. He was elected at the age of twenty-three as a member of the Commonwealth Co-operative Federation (the forerunner of the New Democratic Party), and quickly made his mark from the opposition bench.

In 1965 he forsook the University for Parliament when elected as NDP member for the federal riding of Springfield. But he left Ottawa for the greater challenge of leading the NDP to victory in the Manitoba election of 1969. Premier of Manitoba at the age of thirty-three, he made the dream of multiculturalism a reality of the legislature when he included in his Cabinet three Jews, two Ukrainians, a Pole, a French-Canadian and an Icelander.

In his first term of office, Premier Schreyer concentrated on human rights legislation, social programmes and a no-fault auto insurance law, making Manitoba a leader among the provinces in those fields. In his second term, he turned his attention to the problem of diminishing energy resources, and was among the first to see the necessity of national energy and economic policies.

After nine years in office, he was leader of the NDP opposition to the new Conservative government of Manitoba, when Prime Minister Trudeau's unexpected offer of the post of Governor-General presented yet a new challenge. Edward Schreyer was installed in January, 1979, the youngest Governor-General since colonial days. In his inaugural address, speaking in English, German, Polish and Ukrainian, he urged all ethnic groups to use their diverse talents to build national unity.

He said that "a blessedly overwhelming majority in every province of Canada will provide, with the help of providence, a yearning for the preservation of one Canada that will not be frustrated, a wisdom that will not be denied." As His Excellency, he worked diligently to achieve this "one Canada" and has promoted unity among Canada's ethnic and linguistic groups.

In the sensitive role of Governor-General, the politician was submerged in the statesman, but he worked effectively behind the public scenes of Rideau Hall for educational, scientific and cultural causes. The Right Honourable Edward and the accomplished Lily, his wife, opened their home to many Canadians while retaining the dignity of his role as Her Majesty's representative. They will now use their talents in the Office of the High Commission to Australia.

Mr. Chancellor, Simon Fraser University welcomes Edward Richard Schreyer back to university as Distinguished Visitor. I now ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.