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A Tribute from the Governor—

Frank Graham: Champion of Peace and Freedom

(These are excerpts from the Governor's talk at the presentation of the American Freedom Association World Peace Award to Dr. Frank Graham at the eighth annual Southeastern World Affairs Institute held recently at Black Mountain.)

BY TERRY SANFORD

Governor Of North Carolina

The man that we have climbed a mountain to honor here tonight, like our President, has ever been a champion of peace and freedom.

He was so anxious to help defend the freedoms of America that, during World War I, he twisted the arms of Marine recruiting sergeants until they agreed to waive a physical disability and let him enlist. I suppose those Marines figured that anyone who could twist arms as hard as this pint-sized fellow could give a good accounting of himself in the corps.

I believe that veterans across North Carolina would agree with Dr. Frank that a man's service obligation to his state and nation doesn't end when he takes off his uniform. When he took off his Marine uniform at the end of World War I, he had just begun his fight for democracy.

He exchanged the uniform and the rifle of the Marine for the cap and gown and the textbook of the teacher. He knew, along with another college teacher, Woodrow Wilson, that making the world safe for democracy did not end in the trenches. He knew with Wilson that democracy is built and defended with ideas, not just with bullets. He knew that freedom can be spread in the classroom, as well as on Flanders Field. He knew that the greatest weapon in the arsenal of America is not its armed forces, as necessary as those armed forces are. He knew that our nation's greatest weapon is a dynamic democracy where all have enough to eat, where every boy born of woman may aspire to the highest opportunities of the land, where human beings are judged for what they are and for what they do—rather than for their family tree, where the doors of the schools and the churches are open equally wide to the rich and the poor, where the employee receives the same equal and exact justice as the employer in the court of law, where the vote of the most modest is equal to the vote of the most high.

A Great Era

Dr. Frank became president of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1931, during that



Dr. Graham with one of the many students present at the Institute, Martha Swain of Fayetteville, N. C.

depressing era following the bust of the Roaring Twenties. And he became the first president of the consolidated university in 1933.

That year was a great year for the university, the state and the nation.

It was a year in which one of the greatest, if not the greatest, eras of the nation's oldest state university was launched. It was the year that Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal was inaugurated.

When Frank Graham took charge of the university at Chapel Hill in 1931, that institution was faced with the greatest crisis it had faced since Miss Phillips rang the bell to reopen it after Reconstruction. When he became the first president of the consolidated university, the agricultural graduates at State College were returning to their family farms with the prospect of 5-cent cotton and 10-cent tobacco. And the home economics graduates of the Woman's College were learning how to sew without having any assurance that they would be able to afford the thread to sew.

He Taught On Faith

But Dr. Frank knew that if North Carolina and America were to recover from the Depression, our state and our nation would need an educated citizenry.

He taught on faith and his faith was rewarded.

As an example of his strong belief in the inherent