

We are a nation of realists and pragmatists. We recognize that to have better states, we must have better men. We are optimists whose faith affirms that we need not accept in the realities of today, the dictates of tomorrow.

We believe in tomorrow! And with education, involvement and commitment each tomorrow may be a better one.

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REMARKS AT COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES, MORGAN  
STATE COLLEGE, BALTIMORE

June 5, 1967

Dr. Jenkins, Members of the Graduating Class and Faculty, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this commencement, and my great appreciation for the degree conferred upon me today. I shall cherish this honorary degree even while I remember that it is bestowed as much in tribute to the office as it is to the man who holds it.

This traditional ceremony has a special significance today, marking as it does Morgan State College's centennial year.

One cannot help but wonder what the founders of Centenary Biblical Institute would think of the graduating class of 1967, the curricula, the faculty and the campus of Morgan State College. The college they started has expanded far beyond even the dreams held for it in its modest beginnings 100 years ago. Its success has been most recently publicized through national recognition of Morgan as one of the five best institutions of higher learning in the United States that were founded originally to serve only Negroes.

Just as the original charter purpose of the Centenary Biblical Institute to provide only ministerial training was too narrow, so was the admission policy which limited the student body to one sex, one race and one nationality. Gradually, as the school and its curricula expanded, so did its admission policies. Today qualified men and women of all races, creeds and nationalities meet here to study, to exchange ideas, to explore the sciences and the humanities.