

A Degree Is Conferred

By JAMES A. NEWELL

TO Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, Governor of Maryland, has come a new distinction. Loyola College has conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. The accompanying citation, in setting forth the reason for this award, tenders the recipient a gracious compliment. But it does more. It embodies a statement of profound significance and one to which this somewhat heedless generation may well give heed. For that reason, rather than for calling attention to the honor accorded Governor McKeldin, it is appended.

Here is the citation:

"The times in which we live are characterized, in part, by the gradual subversion of a social order, which, however faulty, allows the citizen to enlarge his stature by God-given right, and to contribute to the improvement of human society by God-given privilege.

"The pressures applied against this weakening social structure are wielded not only by godless elements, but often enough by unwise opportunists who are philosophically blind to the consequences their very own actions imply. Such men seldom perceive how much they subvert the rights of their fellow citizens.

Cleavage Deplored

"Yet their actions tend to cleave our human society from its foundation in the Divine Maker and from its accountability to Him above all others. Thus, in His rightful place as Creator, Provider, Teacher, Father and Final Destiny, we behold the Civil Government—a substitute divinity—now looming as sole owner, sole provider, sole educator, sole parent and sole master of a degraded citizenry.

"For our political leadership, then, we must look to heirs of the humane Christian tradition to stave off enslavement to the welfare state, to prevent secular ownership of the body and soul of the citizen whose birthright is freedom under God,

and to prevent human society from the unwitting attacks of reckless opportunists.

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"For his breadth and depth of understanding of these issues, for his Christian and humane convictions about them, for his alertness in preserving the relation of both State and citizen to their Creator, we are honored on this occasion to cite His Excellency, the Governor of the State of Maryland. **BALTO. NEWS-POST**

"Wherefore, in virtue of the powers conferred upon this corporation by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland, we have created and do hereby proclaim

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT MCKELDIN
Doctor of Humane Letters,
Honoris Causa."

Governor McKeldin, who has received much recognition, who, if it didn't sound flippant, might be said to bear "his blushing honors thick upon him," has reason to be proud of the tribute accorded him by the president and associated professors of Loyola College at this year's commencement. But the Governor has not only received a citation and a degree: as the current head of our State, he has been invested with a responsibility.

On the back of the program of the commencement exercises in question appear four words—"Ad Majorem dei Gloriam." (The capitalization of the first, second and fourth words, while the third is not capitalized, is followed as in the text.)

What a splendid, what an inspiring motto that is. It should not be restricted to the Society of Jesus, but might well be written upon the hearts and graven upon the foreheads of us all. It might combat a corroding materialism, compose minds "wrought perplexed in the extreme," for which the consolations of the psychoanalyst are so often sought, and give high purpose to life. Ad majorem Dei gloriam. Much more satisfactory in the long run than ad majorem diaboli gloriam.