

MONASH UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Science

G R A D U A T I O N C E R E M O N Y

OCCASIONAL ADDRESS

on the
Admission of Robert Edwards, A.O. to a
Degree of

DOCTOR OF LAWS
(Honoris Causa)

ROBERT BLACKWOOD HALL

Wednesday 20 March at 2.30pm

MR CHANCELLOR, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND IN PARTICULAR GRADUATES.

THE INVITATION TO GIVE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SPECIAL OCCASION WAS CAUSE FOR ME TO STOP FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS AND REFLECT UPON A VERY BUSY AND EVENTFUL WORKING LIFE.

IT SEEMED TO ME THAT MY REMARKS SHOULD STEM FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE GAINED THROUGH NEARLY FIVE DECADES OF INVOLVEMENT IN INTERESTING AND EXCITING EVENTS.

PERHAPS REFLECTION ON THE PAST WOULD PROVIDE SOME INNER WISDOM OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO GRADUATES OF THE FACILITY OF SCIENCE WHO ARE MOVING FROM YEARS OF INTENSIVE STUDY, INTO POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND INFLUENCE IN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, EDUCATION AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

WHEN I ENTERED THE WORKFORCE AT THE CLOSE OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, IT WAS A VASTLY DIFFERENT WORLD FROM THAT WHICH EXISTS TODAY. WE WERE NOT BURDENED WITH SUCH THINGS AS THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT, ACID RAIN, POLLUTION, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. ABSENT FROM OUR AGENDA ALSO WERE SUCH THINGS AS ECONOMIC RATIONALISM, MISSION STATEMENTS, PROFIT CENTRES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.

MY FIRST THOUGHTS FOR TODAY'S ADDRESS CAME WHEN WATCHING THE TELECASTS OF THE SO-CALLED 'SMART BOMBS' AS THEY SOUGHT OUT THEIR TARGETS IN IRAQ WITH UNCANNY ACCURACY AND DEADLY EFFECT BUT DEVOID OF ANY SEMBLANCE OF HUMANITY.

THIS WAS AN UNBELIEVABLE CONTRAST TO MY EARLY YEARS WHEN TECHNOLOGIES, AS WE KNOW THEM TODAY, WERE ONLY BEGINNING TO EMERGE OUT OF THE STIMULUS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

THE CONFLICT IN IRAQ AND KUWAIT WAS FOUGHT IN TERMS OF WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY. IT HAD A HIGH VISIBILITY AND ADDED ANOTHER DIMENSION TO THE WAGING OF WAR.

IT BROUGHT WITH IT ONE OF THE GREATEST ECOLOGICAL DISASTERS THE WORLD HAS KNOWN. GRAPHIC SCENES OF FLAMES AND CLOUDS OF BLACK SMOKE BILLOWING FROM HUNDREDS OF BURNING OIL WELLS MADE IT OBVIOUS THAT SOMETHING NEW AND QUITE AWESOME WAS TAKING PLACE.

THESE FIRES CONSUME SOME 6 MILLION BARRELS OF FOSSIL FUEL EACH DAY, RELEASING TOXIC GASES INTO THE AIR ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE. YOU WILL BE ALL TOO WELL AWARE THAT SUCH GASES RISE INTO THE THINNER LAYERS OF THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE, SPREAD OUT, AND FALL BACK TO EARTH AS ACID RAIN.

THIS IS NOT A NEW PROBLEM AS SOME 25 YEARS AGO I CLAMBERED OVER THE ROOF-TOPS OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS IN VENICE, LONDON AND OTHER GREAT CITIES IN EUROPE, TO SEE AT FIRST-HAND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STONE FABRIC AND ELABORATE DECORATIONS INTO CRUMBLING, SUGAR-LIKE MATERIAL AS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF REGULAR DRENCHING IN DILUTE SULPHURIC ACID WHICH FALLS WITH EACH SHOWER.

AS I WATCHED THESE EVENTS UNFOLD, I COULD NOT HELP BUT MAKE COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE 1990'S AND THE 1950'S. THE REMARKABLE TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPED SO RAPIDLY THROUGH SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOUR HAVE ON THE ONE HAND HAD AN EXTRAORDINARY CAPACITY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE WHILE ON THE OTHER, EQUAL POWER TO DESTROY.

AT THE TIME I WAS READING THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS WATSON JNR, WHO DEVELOPED THE GREAT WORLD-WIDE EMPIRE OF IBM WHICH HAD BEEN FOUNDED BY HIS FATHER.

ONE PARTICULAR SECTION STOOD OUT. IN THE EARLY 1960'S, IBM UNDERTOOK A \$5 BILLION RESEARCH PROGRAM TO COUNTER A SERIOUS THREAT FROM A COMPETITOR. THOUSANDS OF YOUNG GRADUATES WERE RECRUITED FROM UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND SET TO WORK IN MODERN LABORATORIES. THEY WERE QUICK TO DELIVER THE FIRST GENERATION OF THE MODERN COMPUTER, IBM ATTAINED AN UNASSAILABLE POSITION IN THE INDUSTRY, AND TECHNOLOGY TOOK A FURTHER GREAT STRIDE FORWARD.

THE INDUSTRIALISATION OF SCIENCE TO PRODUCE SOPHISTICATED CONSUMER GOODS LED TO THE CREATION OF ENORMOUS WEALTH, MUCH OF IT IN THE HANDS OF MAJOR CORPORATIONS.

NO DOUBT THE SAME SHORT-TERM RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES WERE ADOPTED TO CREATE WEAPONS OF WAR: BOTH THOSE USED BY THE ALLIED FORCES IN THE RECENT CONFLICT AS WELL AS THOSE SOLD TO IRAQ BY MANY OF THE GREAT CORPORATIONS OF THE WEST.

TODAY THERE IS A VAST DATA-BANK OF KNOWLEDGE AND ACCUMULATED WISDOM WHICH IS PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND APPLIED TO THE SOLUTION OF THE MANY CHALLENGING PROBLEMS BEING FACED IN THE CLOSING DECADE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. THIS OPENS UP UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

IN MY EARLY YEARS I WAS FORTUNATE TO GLIMPSE THE CLOSING CHAPTERS OF A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WORLD WHICH ALSO RELIED UPON AN ACCUMULATED BODY OF INFORMATION FOR ITS WELL-BEING. THE ABORIGINAL, OR HUNTER-GATHERER PEOPLE, OF AUSTRALIA, AT THAT TIME PERSISTED WITH SOME SEMBLANCE OF A SEMI-NOMADIC WAY OF LIFE, DESPITE THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT.

IT WAS A PRIVILEGE TO SPEND LONG PERIODS EACH YEAR WITH ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS IN THE REMOTE ARID REGIONS OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA AND THE THEN ISOLATED, SUB-TROPICAL AREAS OF ARNHAM LAND.

THE QUEST WAS TO UNDERSTAND THE WAY OF LIFE OF THE ORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ATTEMPTING TO TRACE THE ORIGINS OF PREHISTORIC ROCK ART IN AUSTRALIA.

IT WAS ANOTHER REMARKABLE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY, THAT OF RADIO-CARBON DATING, WHICH ULTIMATELY MADE IT POSSIBLE TO SHOW THAT THE ART OF THE FIRST AUSTRALIANS HAD A SEPARATE ORIGIN ON THIS CONTINENT AND PRE-DATED ALL OTHER ART FORMS IN EXISTENCE.

THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE GAINED GREAT STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION FROM THE RICH CULTURAL LEGACY PASSED DOWN BY THEIR ANCESTORS WITH WHOM THEY RETAINED A VERY CLOSE ASSOCIATION THROUGH ART, ANCIENT BELIEFS, SONG, CEREMONIES, STORY TELLING, AND A WAY OF LIFE DEVELOPED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCE.

I FOUND IT SURPRISING THAT THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO TEACH ME TO MAKE STONE TOOLS, PRECISELY THE WAY MY OWN VERY DISTANT ANCESTORS WOULD HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED IN THE CAVE SHELTERS OF THE DORDOGNE REGION IN FRANCE.

THE PRECISION OF THIS EARLIEST OF TECHNOLOGIES WAS SIMPLE BUT VERY IMPRESSIVE. A CORE OF ROCK OF APPROPRIATE SIZE, SHAPE AND TEXTURE IS SELECTED AND STRUCK WITH A STONE OF CORRECT PROPORTIONS AND WEIGHT. BOTH THE DIRECTION AND FORCE OF THE BLOW ARE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED. THE RESULT IS A TOOL OF PRE-DETERMINED SIZE, SHAPE AND THICKNESS, INDEED, EACH BLOW OF THE STONE HAMMER PRODUCES A PERFECT IMPLEMENT READY FOR USE.

THE TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL WAY OF LIFE WAS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THAT OF WESTERN CIVILISATION WHICH HAD BRANCHED OUT FROM HUNTING AND GATHERING MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO TO ADOPT AGRICULTURE AND A SETTLED FORM OF EXISTENCE.

THERE WERE CONSTANT REMINDERS OF THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TWO LIFE STYLES. I REMEMBER AN OCCASION WHEN ONE OF MY ABORIGINAL BROTHERS VISITED ME WITH HIS FAMILY. IT WAS HIS FIRST TRIP TO A CITY. HE WALKED SLOWLY THROUGH THE HOUSE EXAMINING EVERY ITEM

AND FINALLY SAID "...HOW CAN YOU GO ON WALKABOUT WITH ALL THESE THINGS...". IN HIS COUNTRY SURVIVAL HAD MEANT CARRYING ALL YOUR WORLDLY POSSESSIONS FROM WATER-HOLE TO WATER-HOLE.

CENTURIES OF EXPERIENCE TAUGHT THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH A FINELY-TUNED BALANCE BETWEEN THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND THE POPULATION THESE COULD SUSTAIN, RATHER THAN PRODUCE MORE AND MORE FOOD AND DEVELOP EVER INCREASING TECHNOLOGIES TO CATER FOR OPEN-ENDED POPULATION GROWTH.

IT WAS A SYSTEM OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WHICH SUPPORTED A MORE OR LESS FIXED POPULATION FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS. IT DEMONSTRATED HOW THE WISDOM OF COUNTLESS GENERATIONS, PASSED DOWN IN AN ORAL TRADITION, COULD SERVE THE PRESENT AND PROVIDE A SECURE FUTURE.

IT WAS THE PRODUCT OF A GOOD EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT BEGAN AT BIRTH AND WAS A CONTINUAL PROCESS UNTIL DEATH.

LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES THERE IS NO DOUBT ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS COULD HAVE SURVIVED FOR ALL TIME, AS THEIR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE FOOD RESOURCES IT PROVIDED, HAD NO LONG-TERM DAMAGING EFFECTS.

WE MAY WELL ASK WHAT WENT WRONG WITH THIS WAY OF LIFE? ONLY ONE THING: UNCONTROLLED GROWTH OF THE POPULATION OF COMPETING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES. THIS WAS THE SINGLE MOST RELEVANT FACTOR WHICH LED TO THE ALL BUT TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF HUNTER-GATHERER PEOPLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

UNCONTROLLED POPULATION GROWTH IS ALSO A DETERMINING FACTOR IN OUR OWN FUTURE.

IN 1976 THE WORLD SUSTAINED A LITTLE OVER 4 BILLION PEOPLE: TEN YEARS LATER IT WAS NEARLY 5 BILLION.

THIS MEANS THAT PROVISION HAS HAD TO BE MADE FOR AN ADDITIONAL 1 BILLION PEOPLE OVER A SINGLE DECADE. THEY HAVE TO BE FED, CLOTHED AND HOUSED. THEY WILL HAVE AMBITIONS TO OWN A MOTOR CAR, A TRANSISTOR RADIO AND RECEIVE FREE MEDICAL CARE. ALL WILL SEEK TO SHARE IN THE BENEFITS OF THE EXPLOITATION OF WORLD RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOUR.

IT IS AN INESCAPABLE FACT THAT IN UNDER 10 YEARS THERE WILL BE A FURTHER 1 BILLION INCREASE IN THE WORLD POPULATION.

AS THE IDEA OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH BEGINS TO TAKE HOLD AND HAVE EFFECT, THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE TASK OF ADDRESSING THE ISSUES THAT POSE THREATS TO THE FUTURE.

A POWER-HUNGRY WORLD MUST FIND WAYS TO CONTROL TOXIC EMISSIONS ARISING FROM THE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS. ACCIDENTS AT ATOMIC ENERGY PLANTS HAVE TO BE AVOIDED. POLLUTION CONTROLS WILL NEED TO BE ENFORCED TO ENSURE THE PURITY OF RIVERS, LAKES AND THE SEA.

A SOLUTION HAS TO BE FOUND TO SALINITY WHICH IS SOURING LARGE AREAS OF HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE SOIL. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD'S DIMINISHING RAIN FORESTS MUST STOP. AND THE DEPLETION OF THE OZONE LAYER AND THREATS OF RISING SEA LEVELS MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AND IF POSSIBLE REVERSED.

PERHAPS THE MOST TRAGIC SITUATION IS THE 5 MILLION PEOPLE IN AFRICA WHO FACE STARVATION DUE TO A FAILURE TO RESOLVE THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH AN EQUITABLE SHARING OF WORLD FOOD RESOURCES.

AS WE JOURNEY DOWN THE HIGHWAY OF EVOLUTION THERE IS AN URGENCY TO USE THE ACCUMULATED WISDOM AVAILABLE TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY THE PLAYERS IN THE FIELD OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS ARE IN THE CENTRE OF THE PLAYING FIELD. GOVERNMENTS ARE IN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ENACTING PUNITIVE LEGISLATION. THE GREEN MOVEMENT IS THE CHEER SQUAD. THE MEDIA ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION BY REPORTING ON THE GAME: THE EDUCATION SYSTEM HAS THE AWESOME TASK OF TRAINING THE TEAMS.

MONEY AND THE QUEST FOR POWER OFTEN SEEM TO DISTORT SITUATIONS. LET ME GIVE ONE SIMPLE EXAMPLE. I WAS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST GROUP TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LISTING OF AUSTRALIAN SITES AS PART OF THE WORLD HERITAGE. MY MISSION WAS TO INCLUDE THE

KAKADU REGION SITUATED IN ARNHEM LAND IN NORTH AUSTRALIA. I WAS QUIETLY REMOVED FROM THE COMMITTEE - NOT BECAUSE OF BEING INCORRECT AS TIME WAS TO DEMONSTRATE, BUT DUE TO AN ASSESSMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY THAT THE LOCKING AWAY OF URANIUM RESOURCES WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE AFFECT ON THE ECONOMY AND THEREFORE BE POORLY RECEIVED BY THE ELECTORATE.

IF WE ARE TO PROGRESS IN THE FUTURE AS A NATION IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A WELL-INFORMED AND INTERESTED PUBLIC. THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED PARTLY BY THE ADOPTION OF THE HUNTER-GATHERER EDUCATION SYSTEM: IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, LEARNING MUST BE A CONTINUAL PROCESS THROUGHOUT LIFE.

IF WE ARE ALSO TO REAP THE COUNTLESS BENEFITS OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BRING THE ISSUES OUT INTO THE OPEN SO THEY CAN BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE COMMUNITY. THIS WILL CREATE A FORM OF 'PEOPLE POWER' AND LEAD TO THE ADOPTION OF SOUND POLICIES AND PRACTICES.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN THESE MATTERS. HOWEVER, IT IS TO MUSEUMS WHICH THE WIDER COMMUNITY MUST LOOK FOR INSIGHTS INTO THE RELEVANT ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THEIR LIVES AND THEIR FUTURE.

THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TODAY MAKES IT AN EASY TASK TO GIVE ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE. MUSEUMS ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO CATER FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND FROM ALL SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS.

THEY CAN SUPPLEMENT FORMAL LESSONS IN SCHOOLS, PROVIDE A RESOURCE FOR UNDER-GRADUATE AND POST-GRADUATE STUDIES, EMPLOY SCIENTISTS FOR PARTICULAR PROJECTS AND ARE AN ALTERNATE LEISURE ACTIVITY FOR THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE ARRANGEMENTS EXISTING BETWEEN THIS UNIVERSITY AND THE MUSEUM OF VICTORIA, IS A MODEL OF CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT.

NOW LET ME SAY A LITTLE MORE ABOUT MUSEUMS.

I REMEMBER MY VERY FIRST VISIT TO A MUSEUM IN THE 1930'S. IT WAS MY GRANDMOTHER WHO INTRODUCED ME TO THE WONDERS AND DELIGHTS OF COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS.

IN THOSE PRE-WAR DAYS, DISPLAYS IN PUBLIC MUSEUMS REFLECTED SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AS SCIENTIFIC STAFF SOUGHT TO UNDERSTAND AND DOCUMENT THE ENVIRONMENT AND WORLD CULTURES.

TAXONOMIC RESEARCH WAS THE MAIN REASON FOR EXISTENCE, ALTHOUGH STAFF ALLOWED SOME OF THEIR COLLECTIONS TO SPILL OUT TO THE PUBLIC IN THE FORM OF DISPLAYS OF ROW UPON ROW OF MOUNTED BIRDS, STUFFED ANIMALS, CASE AFTER CASE OF ROCKS, MINERALS, INSECTS, SEA SHELLS AND DEAD FISH PICKLED IN JARS OF ALCOHOL.

THE EXOTIC MATERIAL CULTURE OF THE RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING HUNTER-GATHERER PEOPLE ALSO BECAME A FEATURE IN MOST MUSEUMS.

THE BENEFICIARIES AT THAT TIME WERE, IN THE MAIN, SCHOLARS, RESEARCHERS, COLLECTORS AND A SELECT GROUP OF SPECIALISTS WHO WERE NOT GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT PRESENTING THEMATIC DISPLAYS BUT WERE SATISFIED WITH A MINIMUM OF INTERPRETATION.

ALTHOUGH THE DISPLAYS WERE MANIFESTATIONS OF CENTURIES OF IMPORTANT RESEARCH THEIR ADEQUACY AS A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION ON ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO A PUBLIC COMING UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM CHANGE WAS SOON TO BE QUESTIONED.

THERE WERE FEW DEMANDS PLACED ON THE MUSEUM DECISION-MAKERS, OTHER THAN TO SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOUR. THIS ALLOWED THE INSTITUTIONS TO DEGENERATE INTO TOTALLY STATIC MUSEUMS WITH OFTEN NEGLECTED DISPLAYS, AND AN EMPHASIS ON NOSTALGIA WITH A MINIMUM COMPONENT OF TOPICAL INFORMATION, EXCITEMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT.

BE THIS AS IT MAY, THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THE GREAT, CENTURIES-OLD MUSEUMS OF THE WORLD HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS WHICH PRESERVED VAST QUANTITIES OF HERITAGE MATERIAL, CONDUCTED RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVED.

MUSEUMS ALSO CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO SOCIAL, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE.

HOWEVER, SOME THIRTY YEARS AGO MUSEUMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD REACHED A STAGE WHEN THEY COULD NO LONGER CONTINUE IN THE MANNER OF THE PAST.

AS SOCIETY CHANGED SO DID THE ROLE OF COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS. PEOPLE BECAME BETTER EDUCATED, MORE DISCRIMINATING AND MORE INTERESTED IN THE CHANGING WORLD IN WHICH THEY LIVED.

IT WAS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE FOR MUSEUMS TO CONTINUE A PASSIVE ROLE. IN THE 1960'S THE WINDS OF CHANGE BEGAN TO BLOW THROUGH THE WORLD MUSEUM NETWORK.

IT BECAME A TORNADO BY THE 1980'S.

THE CHANGES HAVE BEEN FUNDAMENTAL AS THE OLDER STYLE OF SOMEWHAT LETHARGIC PUBLIC SERVICE INSTITUTIONS GAVE WAY TO MUSEUMS WHERE COLLECTIONS, DOCUMENTATION, RESEARCH AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES SERVE AS THE MEANS OF CREATING EXCITING AND RELEVANT PROGRAMMES TO CATER FOR THE FULL SPECTRUM OF AGE GROUPS IN SOCIETY, THOSE WITH VARYING BACKGROUNDS AND THOSE WHO CEASED FORMAL EDUCATION AT DIFFERENT LEVELS.

THE RESPONSE TO CHANGE WAS DRAMATIC. LET ME QUOTE SOME STATISTICS:-

- . DURING THE 1980'S NEW MUSEUMS APPEARED IN ALMOST EVERY MAJOR CITY IN THE UNITED STATES. ANNUAL ATTENDANCES INCREASED FROM 200 MILLION IN 1965 TO 500 MILLION IN 1990.
- . IN BRITAIN A NEW MUSEUM HAS OPENED EVERY 18 DAYS FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS. VISITATION LEVELS NOW EXCEED 80 MILLION. IN SOME CITIES, DEVASTATED BY POVERTY, MUSEUMS HAVE LED

ECONOMIC RECOVERY THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL TOURISM. THE VALUE TO THE ECONOMY CAN BE COUNTED IN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

. SINCE 1960 JAPAN ALONE HAS BUILT 200 NEW MUSEUMS. THE STORY IS THE SAME FOR FRANCE, GERMANY AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE WINDS OF CHANGE WERE LATE TO REACH AUSTRALIA. HOWEVER, NEW MUSEUMS EMERGED IN BRISBANE, SYDNEY AND DARWIN, AND MOST OTHER INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN EITHER EXTENDED OR RE-DEVELOPED.

VICTORIA IS SOON TO HAVE ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED AND INNOVATIVE MUSEUMS IN THE WORLD.

THE CENTENARY OF FEDERATION IN THE YEAR 2001 WILL SEE THE EMERGENCE OF A LONG NEEDED MUSEUM IN CANBERRA TO PROVIDE A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON OUR PAST, INSIGHTS INTO THE PRESENT AND INSPIRATION AND LEADERSHIP FOR A FUTURE AS ONE NATION.

IN CONCLUSION, MAY I SUM UP BY SAYING THAT I BELIEVE THE FUTURE HOLDS OUT GREAT PROSPECTS.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIALISATION WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MACHINES TO LIGHTEN THE BURDEN OF DAILY LABOUR.

DICTATORSHIPS AND WAR HAVE DEVASTATED MUCH IN THIS CENTURY. HOWEVER, THE GULF CRISIS HAS SHOWN THAT WAR AS A MEANS OF RESOLVING PROBLEMS IS BECOMING OBSOLETE. EVEN THE COLD WAR IS OVER AND THERE IS EVERY PROSPECT FOR A UNITED EUROPE.

THERE IS AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT. COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH DEMOCRACY AND FREE MARKET ECONOMICS. THERE IS AN INCREASED DESIRE FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS. THE ARTS ARE FLOURISHING WORLD-WIDE.

IN THE FUTURE, SCIENCE AND THE HUMANITIES WILL COME EVER CLOSER TOGETHER AND MUSEUMS WILL BE PLACES OF LEARNING, EXCITEMENT, AND WONDER.

THE WORLD MUSEUM NETWORK WILL PROVIDE A RESOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AND BE PRO-ACTIVE IN ALL MATTERS OF RELEVANCE TO THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

BUT IT IS THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF GRADUATES WHO CARRY THE GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY AS THEY ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND LEAD US INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

THANK YOU MR CHANCELLOR.

SPEECH6
21.03.91