CONVOCATION PRAYER

—The Reverand H. Paul Santmire
Wellesley College Chapel
February 1, 1979

Let us pray.

0 Lord, our God, we offer you thanks for giving us this time of reflection and renewal of purpose. As we look forward to the coming months, we know that we will need your inspiration and your guidance to be the people you would have us be.

So we turn to you now, 0 Lord, to ask you to give us time.

Give us time to think, 0 God. Help us to stand apart from preoccupation with requirements and applications and pages to be read, so that we might reach into the depths of our intellects, as individuals and as a community, in order to seek wisdom as well as information, in order to dream dreams of possibility as well as to master the world of tangible fact.

Give us time to wander, 0 God. Help us to feel free to follow the inner voice of conscience and the inner passion for beauty. Help us to stray from the straight and narrow path of what is conventionally expected, so that we might undertake new adventures in service to others and find new joys in all the elegant blessings of our common life.

Give us time for friendship, 0 God. Help us to learn how to befriend ourselves, to know that each one of us is of infinite value in your eyes, that no one of us is ever a nameless face in any larger scheme of things. Help us to befriend each other, so that we might share anew the festivity of the intellectual life and minister anew to each other's needs. Help us also to befriend those who are far away, those who are hungry, those who look to us to reorder our affluent commitments so that they, too, might share in the fruits of your good earth.

Give us time, 0 God. Time to think. Time to wander. Time for friendship. And bless us now with the knowledge that these good times, as we seek them, are always at hand, through your never failing providence. Amen.