

“The Visible Recognition of Transition”



"The inauguration is the visible recognition of Transition"

—A. L. Pugsley
By JACK MURPHY

In late April, 1966, Dr. Albert Leroy Pugsley, vice-president of Kansas State University, received a telephone call from Dr. Howard W. Jones, asking him to visit Youngstown University because the school was looking for a new president. Tomorrow, Dr. Pugsley will be inaugurated as the second president of Youngstown University.

Dr. Pugsley had had no previous contact with the university; he said and knew of Dr. Jones but had had no personal relationship with him. The invitation had come out of a clear blue sky.

Dr. Pugsley first visited Youngstown in late spring. He was given a guided tour of the campus, was introduced to the faculty and was shown the expansion plans. It was at this time, he said, that he first

began to consider the idea of becoming the president of YU.

The potential that was at YU the first time he came was what impressed him most. He compared this situation at Youngstown to that of Kansas State when he became the dean of academic administration at the age of 38. Both schools, he feels, are much the same. Both were going to be organized more highly, being changed from a simple system of operation to a more complex system.

There were also other reasons for coming to YU. The school of Arts and Sciences, which Dr. Pugsley feels is the core of any university, was a good one and formed a good basis for the professional schools. As a registered engineer, he was also impressed by the engineering school and the engineering faculty.

Dr. Pugsley was also pleased with the prospect of coming to an urban university for two reasons. He feels that the urban university is the most vital force in higher education today. The institution, he said, exists to serve the people in the most direct way.

The change of environment was

also pleasant to both Dr. and Mrs. Pugsley. As Dr. Pugsley noted, their entire background had been in small, semi-rural areas and this would be a new challenge.

On the other side of the ledger, Dr. Pugsley realized that YU would need someone with state university experience in the transition from private to state institution over the next few years. Dr. Pugsley said that the school has had a "Spartan existence" up to now, and had, of necessity, been operated on a shoe string budget.

In late May, YU announced that Dr. Pugsley had been named successor to Dr. Jones as president. On September 1, Dr. Pugsley assumed the duties of President.

He is still impressed with the potential of the university. The students in particular, have shown him that they respect the benefits that will come from their education. According to Dr. Pugsley, YU students are more serious than most students in the U. S. He feels that because many work to pay for their education, they appreciate it more.

A main fault of the university, one which the president hopes will

be remedied in the near future, is that there are no cohesive and fully developed facilities for recreation and student activities. Dr. Pugsley noted that there is no place to develop what he called a "school consciousness."

The president also noted that the school took fine advantage of the many people from area business who were willing to contribute to the school, both in money and time. He observed that the part-time faculty is widely drawn from men who work at a business during the day and then teach it to students in the evening. Dr. Pugsley added that the support of the community as a whole for the university is "almost fierce."

Looking to the future, the president said the next two buildings which will be built are the Fine Arts building, scheduled to begin construction in the fall, and the physical education building. The president emphasized that a football stadium is not in the immediate future of YU. Dr. Pugsley feels that there is a greater need for more classrooms, more laboratories, more faculty office space and that the re-

placement of existing, obsolete facilities are more important than a stadium at this time.

There will also be increased union facilities and a new solution to the old problem of a bookstore. Dorms, which cannot be financed by state funds, will be built most probably on a loan basis.

Dr. Pugsley spoke briefly about Dr. Milton Eisenhower, one of three noted inauguration speakers, the man Dr. Pugsley credits with introducing him to education administration. Dr. Eisenhower appointed Dr. Pugsley as dean of academic administration, a position comparable to the dean of the university, at KSU in 1947, when Dr. Eisenhower was president there.

The president also commented on the visit of Gov. James A. Rhodes and Chancellor John D. Millett, saying their presence indicated the interest the state of Ohio is taking in YU. The three men will be among a number of guests representing several hundred colleges, universities, learned societies, associations and organizations from throughout the U. S. at the inauguration tomorrow.

