

Mr Ambassador

Mr Kinsley

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press - both publishers and editors,

on behalf of the Rhodes University community I welcome you most warmly. We are pleased that the Newspaper Press Union decided to return to its birthplace for its centenary congress and that a seminar to discuss - perhaps - the next hundred years should take place under the auspices of the only English-speaking university school of journalism in the country.

I think a university is a particularly apt place for such a meeting, embodying as it does a limitless scope for enquiry, discussion and study. May I suggest that the only professions to accept no bounds or limits to their fields are newspapermen-and -women, and university teachers. Whether this is a measure of their courage or immodesty I leave to others to judge.

Having attended the seminar I am not sure if we have solved all the problems, but there were several pointers to at least some of the answers.

I should now like to say how appropriate it is that we should be joined by Mr Herman Nickel, the distinguished representative of the United States of America. He represents a great nation at the zenith of its power and an administration that is taking a more positive interest in southern Africa than ever before.

When a man combines such office with a background which has covered our times and our lives as an editor of fortune

- (ASIDE: Mr Ambassador I hope you will forgive me if I have confused my upper and lower cases)

then it seems that the only further thing you can aspire to is the university life.

Another question occurs to me - if it becomes fashionable to go from print to diplomacy then how full of potential and how extraordinary is the rest of the present company?

Delegates to both the Newspaper Press Union congress and today's seminar have been discussing change. It is clear that this condition affects every endeavour of man in this age of change and because we have both official persuaders and those who communicate everyone else's persuasions or propaganda I should like to mention one thought.

One of the people who has probably changed personal attitudes more than anyone else in recent years, Carl Rogers, the American founder of the person-centred approach in psychology, said recently in South Africa that a more feminine view of the universe is evolving with developments in the "new science" theories. These question traditional concepts of Newtonian physics with their logical chain of cause and effect. Carl Rogers believes that scientists are no longer seeking to control but to understand, and are willing to explore psychic phenomena and other "illogical" fields.

The new science has confirmed Carl Rogers' view of reality. He says "Reality is different for each one of us. Every time we try to insist that people agree on one reality, it causes nothing but trouble".

I believe there is a strong lesson for all of us, particularly those of us here.

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