

MOREHEAD PRESIDENT INAUGURATED AMID HOPE



October 31, 1987 | Lexington Herald-Leader (KY)

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422 Words

MOREHEAD -- The rust color of the hills that surround Morehead State University promised the approach of winter yesterday. But inside Button Auditorium the talk was of a new springtime for the school that has had its share of troubles in recent years.

Charles Nelson Grote, 59, was inaugurated as the school's 11th president amid optimistic predictions of rebirth.

"The Morehead eagle will soar like it has never soared before," said former Gov. Edward Breathitt, a Morehead regent.

Grote, a Morehead administrator from 1960 to 1971, said he was returning to "a special place, a place we call home . . . the university that I love."

Grote said Morehead's "primary reason for being is to serve" Eastern Kentucky.

"Morehead State University should be identified by the people of the mountains as their university. This university should be as concerned with the illiterate adult as the graduate student."

Although the focus was on Morehead's future, the past was in evidence.

Adron Doran, Morehead president from 1954 to 1977, delivered the invocation. Former presidents Morris Norfleet and A.D. Albright were among the dignitaries seated on stage.

Breathitt recalled that when Doran became president Morehead faced a crisis so severe that many said it should be closed, but Doran rebuilt the institution. Breathitt pledged his support to Grote not just during the "honeymoon" phase but also during the "storms when lightning is flashing."

The inaugural speaker, Glenn Terrell, president emeritus of Washington State University, said Morehead was probably "a better institution" for having weathered the recent tumultuous years.

Then he drew a big laugh from the audience by announcing that he had former Morehead President Herb

Reinhard in a psychology class 40 years ago. Reinhard's contract as Morehead president was not renewed in 1986 amid considerable controversy over his efforts to reorganize the school.

"I'll tell you something about Reinhard. His wife is really cute and bright. I had her in class, too." Terrell said he almost didn't make the "mischievous comment " but "you're so friendly you brought it out of me."

Former Gov. Louie Nunn, who placed the presidential medallion around Grote's neck, praised the new president for his sincerity, dedication, diligence and professionalism.

Earlier in the day, Grote delivered some good news to the regents. Total enrollment is up 10.1 percent to 6,490. Freshman enrollment is up 30.7 percent, Grote said.

Enrollment at the school had declined in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Caption: Color Herald-Leader/Frank Anderson Louie B. Nunn gives medallion to Morehead's new president, Charles Grote. His former teacher, Leona Schafer, and Gov. Martha Layne Collins look on.

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