



The Doctors Armacost Board Chairman Morris Hildreth



The new president and Senator Frank Carlson



Armacost and Dean W. D. Bemmels

The Inauguration of Dr. Armacost a Pleasing Ceremony



In a setting of visiting dignitaries, an elegant chapel, a beautiful campus and a Kansas spring rain, Dr. Peter H. Armacost on April 21 was formally installed as twelfth president of Ottawa University.

The investiture service was long and dignified. Board of Trustees Chairman Morris Hildreth of Coffeyville gave a brief charge to the President and then placed around his neck a new symbol of office, a pendant given by Dr. E. N. Jones of Dallas, Texas. Dr. Armacost was recognized as the new president.

There were three big events on the schedule of the day, the inauguration ceremony in the Chapel, the reception planned for the Mall but because of the rain, and a dinner for delegates and others in the Union.

There were 208 colleges, universities, seminaries and educational societies represented. The long list included 22 institutional presidents from Kansas and other states. The academic procession with the delegates, the faculty, the trustees, the student council and the presidential party numbered more than 300. Originally, they were to march from Myers Library to the Chapel, but the mid-afternoon rain sent the group scurrying to an assembly point in the wing of the Chapel. The procession in colorful academic garb moved from there into the impressive chapel.

There were warming minutes in the program. Dr. Armacost's father, Dr. George H. Armacost, president of University of Redlands in California, participated in the presidential

party to the platform. Just before the investiture service, he gave a challenge to his son and to the University constituency.

At the reception in the Women's Physical Education Building Dr. and Mrs. Armacost were the gracious honor guests and greeted a large number of well-wishers.

Dr. Armacost's father and mother, his sister, his two brothers and an aunt and Mrs. Armacost's mother and an aunt were present adding to the importance and friendliness of the occasion.

At the dinner in the evening, Rev. James McCrossen was master of ceremonies and introduced Dr. Andrew B. Martin, president emeritus and Dr. Robert E. Davis of the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication. They gave brief talks.

Dr. Armacost's presidential address projected the potential of the University in an encouraging manner. Here are some excerpts from his message:

"The problems of contemporary society re-emphasize the need for a strong system of higher education, but in order to be equal to the challenge our colleges and universities need to undergo a self-renewal.

"This creates an opportunity for the private Christian college of liberal arts which can provide leadership in the task of renewal. It can do so because: Its organizational structure is uncomplicated and, given the vision, courage and will to renewal, change is more easily accomplished than in the more complex universities. Its historic commitments to liberal education and to Christianity as a force in higher education are sound.