Chancellor Aldrich, Mr. President, Governor Brown, Members of the Board of Regents, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We gather here today to dedicate a new campus, in an environment whose newness has excited the imagination of planners, academicians, students and the public at large.

The President of the United States and the Governor of the State of California honor us by their participation in today's ceremonies. Their presence emphasizes the importance of the task ahead and the huge responsibilities facing the University of California now and for the future.

Plato said that the beginning is the most important part of the work, and today an auspicious beginning is being made. Today we are surrounded by the still undeveloped hills of Orange County. In the years to come, a University campus of truly monumental proportions will arise here. It will be the focus of a new center of population which will number, by 1980, more than one hundred thousand persons. This adds new dimensions to the creation of a new campus. It is symbolic of the central role of the University in modern life, touching and influencing almost every part of the society it serves.

Today marks the formal beginning, but antedating this occasion and making it possible are the efforts and contributions of many people. Specifically, we would particularly like to mention with
appreciation the Irvine Land Company which presented this magnificent site to the University of California; the officials of Orange County - now celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary; the friends of the University of California in Orange County, whose many hours of effort have been devoted to the realization of what began as dreams; the faculty and staff of the University of California who have worked so hard toward this same end; and the people of California and their legislative and administrative representatives who have, over the years, demonstrated a faith in higher education and a willingness to support its cause which is, to my knowledge, unparalleled in history.

Nearly a hundred years ago, President Daniel Coit Gilman said in his inaugural address:

"... let us say with courage and hope that the University of California shall be a place where all the experience of past generations, so far as it is of record, and all that is known of the laws of nature, shall be at command for the benefit of this generation and those who come after us; that here shall be heard the voices of the wisest thinkers, and here shall be seen the example of the most diligent students in every department of science. ... Let us see to it that here are brought together the books of every nation, and those who can read them; the collections from all the kingdoms of nature, and those who can interpret them; the instruments of research and analysis, and those who can employ
them; and let us be sure that the larger the capital we invest, the greater will be the dividend."

The Irvine campus, whose site we dedicate today, will share with all the other campuses of the University the pursuit of these noble goals so eloquently stated by President Gilman in the earliest days of this institution.

Mr. President, we are deeply honored by your presence at our ceremonies, especially so since you are now a member of our company by virtue of the LL.D. degree awarded you this spring at UCLA. Your participation today augurs a bright future for this new campus, the University of California at Irvine.