

7/10/51

85-1

In recommending that the University of Hawaii grant a degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa to Elbert D. Thomas, High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the following citation was read by Dr. K. C. Leebrick, Vice President, University of Hawaii, at the Commencement Exercises, June 13, 1951.

"Elbert D. Thomas - statesman, author, missionary, and educator. Born in Utah, educated in Utah and California, he served from 1907 to 1912 as a missionary in Japan. He was elected United States Senator from Utah; now at the zenith of his life of public service, he is High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

"He is author of a study of Thomas Jefferson and was chairman from 1944 to 1951 of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission. Elbert D. Thomas may be likened to that great American, in that he, too, is a scholar, a statesman, a democrat, a writer, a man whose eyes and thoughts have focused on the West.

"Disciplined in the classics, he has taught Latin and Greek, has written in Japanese, and was for many years professor of political science at the University of Utah. Like another distinguished professor of political science, Woodrow Wilson, he left the classroom for the field of political public service. Elbert D. Thomas served with distinction in the United States Senate for eighteen years, 1933 to 1950. He has been a member of innumerable national and international commissions, he has participated in a wide range of educational and political activities. His training and experience eminently fit him for the high office he now holds. He has long been an effective friend of the peoples of the Pacific area.

"In recognition of his service to his profession, his state, his nation, and his church, President Sinclair, it is my privilege and pleasure to present a friend for almost forty years, Elbert D. Thomas, to receive from you the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa."

Dr. Gregg M. Sinclair, President of the University of Hawaii, responded -

"Dr. Thomas, by the authority vested in me by the Board of Regents I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, with all the benefits accruing thereto and admit you to the Society of Scholars. The University is honored in having you accept this degree at my hands. And may I say that Dr. Thomas is one of the great statesmen of our time."