

My congratulations to all of you, to the 70th class of graduates of this country's first school of public health. For those pioneers, 1919 was a time of excitement and anticipation. It was a time of limitless challenge but also one of unique opportunity as science and practice began to be melded in public health. Today's world is a very different one from that of two generations ago, but one which even more needs the best of science and its application in public health. The challenges have expanded and changed but the potential is far greater than ever before for making significant differences in the health and well-being of the world's peoples.

As you assume new responsibilities, be it in government service, in a university or in the private sector, there are two injunctions which I would offer. The first is that you must now devote more time to answering the question: "Are we doing the right things?" It is no longer enough to ascertain that "we do things right." Policies need to be questioned, operational methods examined and new directions of inquiry explored as an ongoing exercise. Your grounding in the science and history of public health facilitate your doing this and, indeed, it is your responsibility to do so.

The second injunction is that you continue to bear in mind that concern for the health and the well-being of mankind is an indivisible bond which unites us all. Despair and disability do not recognize the boundaries imposed by political systems, religions and race. We in public health bear special responsibilities in meeting the challenges of health for all but to do so, requires the collaborative efforts of

colleagues throughout the world. By virtue of your study here, you become a member of the unique, world-wide Hopkins family with both the privileges and responsibilities which that conveys. May I welcome you all as members of the family.

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