

June 1956

L.L.D.

VICTOR SILAS BRYANT, native of North Carolina and graduate of this University, began his successful career in the practice of law upon discharge from the United States Army in 1919. As a student here he won distinction in campus activities, served as assistant editor of The Tar Heel, and was tapped by Golden Fleece.

Representing his native county of Durham in the North Carolina General Assembly during the difficult period between the depression and the outbreak of World War II, he rendered distinguished service and rose to the forefront of the State's political and educational leadership. As Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in 1935 and of the Committee on Finance in 1937, he did not permit the magnitude of recently assumed State support of the public schools to distort his view of educational needs. His strong influence was ever opposed to that of some weary and shortsighted legislators whose desperate haste would have balanced the budget by unbalancing the lives of youth.

Long active in the interest of higher education, he has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina since 1937 and of its Executive Committee since 1945. He has been chairman of many important special committees of the Board of Trustees, and his comprehensive knowledge of the problems of public higher education was recognized in his selection as Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education authorized by the Legislature of 1953.

In recognition of his professional attainments and public service, and in grateful acknowledgment of his many unselfish labors in behalf of his Alma Mater, the University is proud to bestow on him the degree of Doctor of Laws.