

DORIS FLEESON

Doris Fleeson: According to Demosthenes, the Athenians liked to wander through the streets asking, "What is the news?" In our large and busy democracy, the members of the press save our time and footwear by satisfying this desire to know what is going on in the world.

The political correspondents have a special role in a country where government is "of the people, by the people, for the people." The privilege of self-government is one we use effectively only if our decisions are based upon knowledge of men and issues, and if we are aware of events that are shaping our future. Such knowledge is not easy to come by. Were it not for the diligence of scouts in strategic places we would be very inadequately informed.

Mrs. Fleeson: You are one of those "scouts" so indispensable to a democratic nation. Thousands of Americans who read your syndicated columns are kept informed of what is happening in national political circles, why it is happening, and to what results you believe it may be leading. When the war caused our attention to focus overseas you served in our foreign legion of correspondents in North Africa and Europe.

The members of the press entrusted with such important assignments are men and women of integrity, skilled in dealing with people, unceasingly alert, capable of objectivity, and courageous in giving us the truth as they see it.

These qualities your columns reveal in unmistakable clarity. To them is added the gift of perception that sees the outline and significance of a political picture in a mosaic of information.

Your colleagues have said "well done," their highest praise, in bestowing upon you the Raymond Clapper, Missouri Journalism, and Theta Sigma Phi Headliner Awards and, on two occasions, the New York Newspaperwoman's Club prize for Distinguished Reporting. This is recognition of your professional accomplishments. Our award of the honorary degree goes beyond this: we recognize democracy's debt to you as one of its able newspaper correspondents who serve as interpreters between the government and the people.

And now, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of Russell Sage College, I admit you to the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto, in token of which I present you with this diploma, cause the appropriate hood to be placed upon your shoulders, and ask that your name be inscribed upon the list of honorary alumnae of the College.

Lewis A. Froman

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