Madame Chancellor:

I have the honour to present the Right Honourable Edward Richard Schreyer, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education, Master of Arts, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, Commander of the Order of Military Merit, Governor-General of Canada.

Mr. Schreyer was born in Beausejour, Manitoba, and received his high school education at Beausejour Collegiate. Thereafter he began a lengthy though not uninterrupted association with the University of Manitoba.

As a student in the second half of the 1950s, Mr. Schreyer followed the time-honoured custom of working in the summers. He was also active in the C.O.T.C., attaining the rank of Second Lieutenant. He graduated from our University with his bachelor's degrees in Pedagogy, Arts and Education in 1959, 1960 and 1962 respectively, and he was awarded his Master of Arts degree, specializing in Political Science, in 1963.

Even before completing his first degree, Mr. Schreyer won distinction in the political arena. He was first elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly of our Province in 1958, thereby becoming at the age of 22 the youngest ever member of the Manitoba legislature. This was but the beginning of a career of public service — a service which has alternated in a fascinating manner between the provincial and the federal spheres. Mr. Schreyer was re-elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1959 and 1962, and then was elected Member of the House of Commons for the federal constituency of Springfield in 1965 and 1968. In 1969 he heeded the call of the provincial New Democratic Party and was elected its leader. Shortly thereafter he guided his party to success in the provincial election and became Premier of Manitoba.

As befits a person who lists carpentry as one of his recreations, the thrust of the policies which he espoused was constructive and the eight years during which Mr. Schreyer was First Minister of our Province were marked by significant though not undisputed legislative achievements. These included the introduction of a new scheme for motor vehicle insurance, the abolition of medical charges, and the reorganization of the governance of metropolitan Winnipeg. At different times during these eight years Mr. Schreyer also occupied various other governmental positions alongside his main post of Premier — Minister of Dominion-Provincial Relations, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Minister of Finance, to name but some of these.

After the provincial election of 1977, Mr. Schreyer became Leader of the Opposition in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. This change in status also enabled him to pursue some other interests. Among these was the revival of a link with the academic scene. Indeed, Madame Chancellor, Mr. Schreyer had been a Lecturer in Political Science at St. Paul's College of our University in the years 1963-65. He was also made a Fellow of St. John's College, with which he had had some connection in his student days, in 1971. More recently he has given a seminar to students in the Joint Master's Programme in Public Affairs, lectured to a conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, and addressed the inaugural meeting of the History Club of Winnipeg. Mr. Schreyer's association with our University was about to be further cemented last term, for he was due to teach the course Contemporary Social Issues in Business. In fact, the University of Manitoba lost an instructor (though Mr. Schreyer did deliver one lecture in this course) but Canada gained a Governor-General.

It was with pride that Manitobans of all political persuasions learned of the appointment of a native son to be our Governor-General. We at the University of Manitoba have felt an especial pride at the honour thereby done to one of our distinguished alumni. Mr. Schreyer has brought to his high position his humanity, his wise counsel, his experience in public affairs, his dedication to service, his deep concern for the unity of our country and his wide interest in all things Canadian.

Mr. Schreyer is supported in his work by his gracious wife Lily and their four children.

Madame Chancellor, it is an honour and a privilege for me to ask, in the name of the Senate, that you confer upon Edward Richard Schreyer the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

D. R. Campbell
President

May 24, 1979