

STUDENT PUBLIC ADDRESS
ACTIVITIES AT WAYNE UNIVERSITY
1918 - 1956

by
James Robert Irwin

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Jimie D. Trent /s/

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

On April 22, 1956, Michigan's Governor G. Mennen Williams signed into law Public Act #183, a bill which stipulated the creation of Wayne State University. In conjunction with this, the Detroit Board of Education relinquished its control over the University and a new era of existence under full support of the State of Michigan was under way.

The story of Wayne University's development under the Detroit Board is told eloquently in Leslie L. Hanawalt's A Place of Light. In it, the author describes the special relationship which existed:

Over the years the Detroit Board of Education had enjoyed a unique distinction: it was the only elected board in the nation that operated both the common schools and a university. This fact has been publicized so often that it has become a commonplace in Detroit; but the achievement was anything but commonplace - indeed it was amazing; as any reader of this history will have perceived.¹

Student public address activities under this "unique" situation began in 1918 with the institution of Detroit Junior College and with it a liberal arts curriculum for graduates of the city's high schools. The story of their

¹ Hanawalt, Leslie L. A place of Light: The History of Wayne State University. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1968. p. 410

development is merely a part of the greater story of University growth; but it is also supplemental to it, for through these activities, the University was able to put forth and publicly demonstrate an intellectual excellence, which gave it prominence, recognition and prestige.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the student public address activities at Wayne University from 1918 to 1956. Such a study provides added information to the Department of Speech regarding the scope of its programs in the past. At the same time, the study will supplement writings completed in the history of Wayne University. It will reveal, in some measure, the extent to which several people were important to the creation and generation of these activities as they evolved through thirty-eight years of development.

Scope of the Study

This investigation is limited to the period from September, 1918 to June, 1956. The beginning date corresponds with the institution of Detroit Junior College under the Detroit Board of Education. This is the college which developed into the College of Liberal Arts of Wayne University, wherein the Department of Speech was founded. It has been noted earlier that Wayne State University was

created in 1956. This study concludes with the transfer to state control marking the end of operation under the Detroit Board of Education and the beginning of a new era for the University.

This investigation is also limited (1) to those speech activities which are commonly considered to belong in the realm of public address, i.e., debate, oratory, extemporaneous speaking and discussion and (2) to those public address activities which were associated with Detroit Junior College and its subsequent descendant, Wayne University's College of Liberal Arts and the Department of Speech.

Materials Utilized

Principal sources of materials for this investigation have been the primary materials found in the personal files of faculty members who coached the activities during this period, the Wayne State University Archives and the Wayne State University General Library. The specific types of materials are identified further:

Primary Materials

Personal Files of Faculty Members. The personal records and papers of Rupert L. Cortright and Elizabeth G. Youngjohn offered much insight to the evolvement of their

programs. Tournament brochures, letters of correspondence and winloss records were valuable as research materials.

Official Publications of the Detroit Board of Education.

Board proceedings of business relative to the University provided an examination of Wayne's general operation under the auspices of the Board of Education.

Student Publications. The Daily Collegian printed numerous

articles about Wayne's public address activities during this period. The successes and failures of intercollegiate speech competition between Wayne students and their opponents are recorded throughout most of the thirty-eight years of the study. The Wayne Debater was a once-a-year publication of Speech Department students, which centered around the international debates. Although only three issues were printed, they contained pertinent information regarding the debate program.

Contemporary Textbooks. A Place of Light, by Leslie L.

Hanawalt, records the history of Wayne State University. This was valuable as a tool for gaining an overall perspective in the general development of the University.

Secondary Materials

Related Studies. James Ross Irwin's doctoral thesis entitled "Wayne University - A History" was useful as supplemental material on the University as a whole.

Studies by Leslie Hanawalt and Philip P. Mason provided historical information in the form of a chronology which was helpful in studying the growth of Wayne from its modest beginnings to its present magnitude.

Other Printed Material. The Gavel, a publication of Delta Sigma Rho, frequently printed articles containing information about the activities of its various chapters, including the one at Wayne University

Design of the Study

This study is divided into six chapters and an appendix of two parts.

Chapter II presents a description of the general development of Wayne University, from its inception in 1918 to the transfer of control to the State of Michigan in 1956. The early development is summarized and the growth of the University under its various administrations is discussed.

Chapter III discusses the initial decade of public address activities, from the first debate held in 1918 to the arrival of Preston H. Scott as director of speech programs ten years later. Emphasized in this chapter are the beginning efforts to initiate a debate program and the continuing struggle to maintain it.

Chapter IV is a description of the student public address activities as they began with full force under Scott and were fostered, expanded and promoted through the efforts of teachers such as Rupert L. Cortright, E. Ray Skinner, Sherman Willson and Elizabeth G. Youngjohn. This is the period of generation, the time when Wayne University placed itself with distinction among the noted institutions for speech activities in the country.

Chapter V describes the effects of World War II on the public address activities at Wayne. It is shown how lack of funds forced initial cutbacks in the entire program, and how the resources of the Department of Speech were channeled to accommodate the needs of Detroit in wartime.

Chapter VI shows the speech programs in development during the ten years following the war. Emphasis is placed upon the rebuilding of intercollegiate competitive activities and the success of this endeavor, made possible by members of the administrative and coaching staffs in the Department.

Appendix A is a chronological listing of debate propositions which were employed by Wayne University teams, 1918-1956.

Appendix B is a chronological listing of important events relative to the development of the student public address activities at Wayne University.

Chapter II

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF WAYNE UNIVERSITY

1868 - 1956

The purpose of this chapter is to survey and discuss the general background and growth of Wayne University which made up the environment for public address activities during the period under examination. Much of the material reported is based upon histories of the University, and especially upon studies by James R. Irwin,² Leslie L. Hanawalt and Phillip P. Mason³ and the writings of Sydney Glazer,⁴ as well as other sources, such as The Collegian, the student newspaper publication of the University. This chapter is not intended to replicate material from these sources, except to the extent that they provide an adequate and substantial description of the University development

² Irwin, James Ross, "Wayne University - A History." Unpublished Ed.D., dissertation, Wayne University College of Education, 1953.

³ Hanawalt, Leslie L., and Mason, Phillip P., "Historical Information on Wayne State University." A chronology prepared for the University Board of Governors, February 20, 1963.

⁴ Glazer, Sydney "History of Wayne University." Articles in the Collegian, April 23, 26, 30; May 3, 10, 14, 21, 24, 28 and 31, 1934.

as a background for the public address activities of the students.

This chapter examines the growth of the University prior to the creation of Detroit Junior College in 1918, the characteristics of college administration under the direct supervision of the Board of Education, and the development of the University under its various administrators from 1933, when the institution officially became Wayne University, to 1956, when Wayne University began a transition to full control by the State of Michigan.

The Growth of the University Prior to 1918

Wayne University claims its genesis in 1868, when a group of five physicians and a number of interested citizens opened a private medical school in Detroit and named it the "Detroit Medical College."⁵ In 1885 the name of the school was changed to "Detroit College of Medicine" and remained so named until 1913, when the school was reorganized and its name changed to "Detroit College of Medicine"⁶ and remained so named until 1913, when the school

⁵ Irwin, op. cit., p. 19

⁶ Hanawalt and Mason, op. cit., p. 3

was reorganized and its name changed to "Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery."⁷

Also in 1868, Duane Doty, Superintendent of Schools in Detroit, opened a teacher-training class for high school seniors. Although this lasted for only one term, the idea for teacher training in Detroit germinated through two similarly sporadic attempts to set up a curriculum, until 1881 when J.M.B. Sill, Detroit's Superintendent of Schools, established the "Normal Training School" for teachers. The Board of Education continued to expand its offerings for teacher training and in 1920 the school was renamed "Detroit Teacher's College" and Stuart A. Curtis was appointed its first dean.⁸

In 1917 the Detroit Board of Education organized the general education classes that were being taught at its Central High School into a two-year junior college program, naming the program "Detroit Junior College." The courses were expanded to a four-year curriculum in 1923, when the Board extended to the College the power to grant degrees, renamed it "College of the City of Detroit" and appointed David MacKenzie, principal of Central High School, dean.⁹

⁷ Ibid., p. 10

⁸ Ibid., p. 4

⁹ Ibid., p. 12

Thus, in 1918, the Detroit Board of Education controlled the administration of two colleges and one junior college. When grouped as part of a University in 1933, the "Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery" would become the "College of Medicine," "Detroit Teacher's College" would become the "College of Education" and "Detroit Junior College" would develop into the "College of Liberal Arts."

Administration of the University Under
The Detroit Board of Education, 1918 to 1933

In the years preceding the organization of the University in 1933, there was no central administration of the colleges being controlled and maintained by Detroit's Board of Education. Each college was administered by a dean appointed by the Board; little connection existed between the administrative functions of the three colleges in 1918 and during the next fifteen years, this situation would not be altered.

A fourth college was instituted by the Detroit Board in 1924. Courses in pharmacy offered at Cass Technical High School for a few years were organized into a full

program leading to a degree in pharmacy and the "College of Pharmacy" began.¹⁰

These four institutions formed the nucleus of the University which was formed in 1933, although a fifth college, The "Detroit City Law School" was organized under the Board in 1927. Classes in law were taught only in the evening; the college was not admitted to the University until ten years after its inception.

The disjunction of administrative functions which existed among its colleges prompted the Detroit Board of Education to realize that further development of its higher education program necessitated a correlation of the individual activities of the Institutions; this required the establishment of a central administration. Thus, on August 8, 1933, the Detroit Board of Education formally adopted the establishment of a university to be known as the "Colleges of the City of Detroit."¹¹ Acting under the authority granted by the State of Michigan, the board included four of the five colleges under its control in the organization. Also, as an encouragement for the development of engineering the graduate curriculums already existing within the liberal arts program, the board created

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 5

¹¹ Ibid., p. 5

two additional colleges, the "College of Engineering" and the "Graduate School" as part of the new university.¹²

The name of the new university did not meet with substantial approval, especially from the alumni and students. Petitions were started to change the name; letters of suggestions for a new name were sent to the Board; The Collegian, the student newspaper, contained articles depicting considerable dissatisfaction over the name which had been chosen. Finally, the Board decided to rename the university. The October 26, 1933 3 edition of The Collegian carried the announcement of the Board's decision and started a full campaign for suggestions to be given to the Board for its consideration. Among them were Detroit City University, Lewis Cass University, Great Lakes University (GLU), Cadillac University, University of Southern Michigan and Mackenzie University.¹³ On January 22, 1934, the Board officially adopted the name "Wayne University" in honor of General Anthony Wayne, hero of the Revolutionary War.

In authorizing the creation of the University, the Detroit Board of Education established a central administration and provided that Frank Cody be named

¹² The Collegian, September 12, 1933

¹³ Hanawalt and Mason, op. cit., p. 5

President of the University in addition to his post as Superintendent of Detroit's schools. Dr. Charles L. Spain, the Deputy Superintendent, was named Executive Vice President.

The Growth of the University, 1933 - 1956

Wayne University had four presidents during the period from 1933 to 1956. In 1942 Frank Cody retired as Superintendent of Schools and President of Wayne University. He was succeeded by Warren E. Bow, the Deputy Superintendent, in this dual position. Upon the death of Mr. Bow in 1945, the Board made significant changes in its administrative structure, disuniting the university presidency from the school superintendency. Dr. David D. Henry was named President of the University in that year. In addition, the Board organized a top administrative staff: Arthur Neef, Provost; Olin Thomas, Executive Secretary; Clarence B. Hilberry, Dean of Administration; Victor Spathelf, Dean of Student Affairs.¹⁴ Dr. Henry resigned from the presidency in 1952. Dr. Hilberry was made Acting President and then President in 1953. He continued his term through and beyond July 1, 1956, when Wayne University began the transition to full control by

¹⁴ Hanawalt and Mason, op. cit. p. 16

the State of Michigan. This date marks the termination of the period covered in this study.

The University developed significantly under its first four presidents. New colleges were developed; physical facilities grew from a diversified small number of scattered classrooms and halls to a centralized complex of buildings which met the needs of a growing curriculum. Following is a description of this development as it progressed from 1933 to 1956.

The Cody - Spain Administration

Frank Cody, Superintendent of Detroit Public Schools, was appointed the first president of Wayne University in 1933. Dr. Charles L. Spain, the Deputy Superintendent, was made Executive Vice-President at the same time. From the beginning Dr. Cody realized that the growing responsibilities of his dual position were far too extensive for a single individual. Thus he left the actual operation of the University in the hands of his Executive Vice-President, while he retained supervisory responsibility over the policies which were established. This set a precedent which carried through the first dozen years of University operation.

The Cody-Spain administration represented the beginning of a program of remarkable growth in curriculum

and it became dedicated to meeting the specific educational needs of a metropolitan community. This was emphasized by a willingness to attempt new endeavors in class offerings, degree programs and the incorporation of additional colleges. Under the direct leadership of Dr. Spain, the University entered a period of growth which made it a unique institution of higher learning, becoming what Dr. Spain termed the "cap stone" of a complete educational system, which extended from kindergarten through graduate school under the direction of a Board of Education elected by a direct vote of the citizens of Detroit.¹⁵

In 1935 a school of Public Affairs was established. The name was changed one year later to the "School of Public Affairs and Social Work."

A "School of General Studies" was organized in 1937. This represented a two-year program for full-time students, leading to a certificate in general studies. Although this school was closed in 1950, its organization represented the administration's desire to meet the educational needs of the working population of Detroit.

One of the major additions to the institution during the Cody-Spain administration was the "Wayne University Law School." The Law School, formerly the Detroit City Law

¹⁵ Irwin, op. cit., p. 306

School, was organized in 1927 by the Detroit Board of Education and had been offering evening classes in law under the Board's auspices. The school received full approval of the American Bar Association in 1937 and, in that same year, joined Wayne University and began to offer daytime classes in addition to its former program.

In 1939 Dr. Spain retired as Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Executive Vice-President of Wayne University. His contributions to the University were officially acknowledged by the Detroit Board of Education at the time of his death, February 23, 1950, in the following statement:

"Dr. Spain went to Wayne University at a critical period in the development of higher education in Detroit. His was the hand that drafted the organization plans for the city's own university. As the institution's first Executive Vice-President, it became his task to weld into a unit the several schools and colleges that had grown up more or less independently of one another. Under his leadership, additional schools and colleges were organized and Wayne University grew, both in numbers and prestige.¹⁶

Upon the retirement of Dr. Spain the Board of Education appointed Dr. David D. Henry, who had been Dr. Spain's assistant, to the position of Executive Vice-President of Wayne University. At the same time, the board separated the offices of Deputy Superintendent of Schools

¹⁶ Detroit, Proceedings of the Board of Education, p. 383

and Executive Vice-President, recognizing the growing separation of administrators of the University and the Detroit Public Schools.

The Henry Administration Under
Presidents Cody and Bow

Dr. Henry continued the program of University growth and development that had been instituted and carried out by Dr. Spain. As Executive Vice-President he served under two presidents from 1939 to 1945. Frank Cody retired in 1942 and was succeeded by Dr. Warren E. Bow, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in charge of intermediate, technical, vocational and high schools. Dr. Bow continued as Superintendent of Schools and University President until his death in 1945.

The chief administrative responsibilities of Dr. Henry during this time centered around the adjustment of University operation to World War II. Nearly every department of the institution devoted its energies and adjusted its program to contribute to the United States military need. Wayne University was designated as an important center of information by the United States Office of Education. It carried out this responsibility by organizing a central collection of literature on war activities and distributing this information to writers,

speakers and local interest groups. The University also printed and distributed a collection of specific pamphlets and bibliographies on information related to the war. Many courses in scientific and professional curriculums were modified to train full-time and part-time students in programs contributing to the war effort.¹⁷

Dr. Warren Bow died suddenly on May 12, 1945, in the height of his career. His services as Superintendent of Schools and University President were evaluated by the Board of Education at its meeting ten days after his death:

"In July, 1942, Dr. Bow was named superintendent of schools and president of Wayne University. His service in all divisions of the public school system had equipped him admirably for the responsibilities of leadership that were now his. During his tenure of office he constantly demonstrated his sensitiveness to the educational needs of the community and a readiness to adapt the school system to meet those needs. A pertinent example was his early recognition of the obligation of the schools to assist the veterans of World War II to readjust to civilian life, and his consequent establishment of the Veteran's Institute. Noteworthy was his leadership in the expansion of Wayne University campus, including provision for the establishment of the Medical Science Center and the Engineering Research Institute."¹⁸

Henry Administration

Dr. David D. Henry, as Executive Vice-President, had been the administrative head of Wayne University in fact if

¹⁷ Irwin, op. cit. p. 310

¹⁸ Detroit Proceedings, 1944-45, op. cit., p. 559-560

not in name from 1939 to 1945. Both Presidents Cody and Bow left the actual operation of the University in his hands due to the pressing responsibilities of the office of Superintendent of Schools. Upon the death of President Bow in 1945, it became apparent to the Board of Education that the offices of Superintendent and University President should be separated because of this heavy burden.

Thus, at the May 22, 1945 meeting of the Board of Education it was decided to separate the offices of Superintendent of Schools and President of Wayne University. The Board appointed Dr. Henry to be the third President of Wayne University and the first to occupy this position separately from the Superintendent of Detroit Public Schools.¹⁹ The Board also eliminated the position of Executive Vice-President and organized a top administrative staff to assist Dr. Henry.

The Henry Administration continued to maintain a program of tremendous growth in curriculum and educational facilities. In 1945 Dr. Henry supervised the formation of the School of Business Administration and activated the operation of the College of Nursing. A large enrollment of veterans in 1946 necessitated the rental or borrowing of classroom space and prompted the development of additional

¹⁹ Detroit, Proceedings, 1944-45 op. cit., p. 561

classroom buildings and student facilities. Webster Hall, a large hotel near Cass and Warren Avenues, was purchased and converted to a student center and dormitory which opened in 1947. Two years later Science Hall and State Hall were opened as additional laboratory and classroom facilities.

By 1950, enrollment had grown to 18,307 with 8,057 full-time students and 10,250 part-time students.²⁰ This represented a growth of nearly 55% in student enrollment since 1940. Moreover, 2,569 degrees awarded in 1950 more than doubled the number of degrees awarded ten years earlier.²¹

Dr. Henry resigned from Wayne's presidency in 1952, one year after the Engineering building was open for use. His administration had guided the University through a period of exceptional post-war development, in which buildings were added, new colleges were instituted and student enrollment expanded enormously. Upon Dr. Henry's resignation, Dr. Clarence B. Hilberry was made Acting President and then President of Wayne University in 1953.

²⁰ Hanawalt and Mason, op. cit., p. 16

²¹ Hanawalt and Mason, op. cit., pp. 15-16

Hilberry Administration 1953-56

Clarence B. Hilberry was completing his third year of office when Wayne University began a transition to full control by the State of Michigan in 1956. Since President Hilberry continued in office beyond this year marking the termination of this study, his administration cannot be treated in its entirety. Nevertheless, it can be said that during the period from 1953-56, President Hilberry managed the continued expansion of the University, particularly with respect to its growth in educational facilities. He supervised the opening of the Kresge Science Library in 1953. One year later, the Medical Science Building and the General Library were opened for use and in 1955 the Music Building became an additional facility on campus.

On July 1, 1956, the University began a three-year period of transition to become a state-supported institution under full authority of the State of Michigan.

In Dr. Hilberry's first three years as President of Wayne University he continued the educational expansion that had become a basic characteristic of the institution. Most importantly, he supervised during this time the addition of two major libraries essential to an institution of higher learning and necessary for the success of an

educational program which had developed so rapidly in scope, stature and size.

Summary

This chapter has summarized the general development of Wayne University during the period from 1868 to 1956 in terms of its early development prior to being controlled by the Detroit Board of Education, the administrative structure under Board supervision, and its growth under the various administrations.

(1) The beginning of Wayne University came in 1868 with the opening of a private medical school and the institution of a teacher-training class in the Detroit Public School System. Each curriculum developed separately until 1918, when the Detroit Board of Education took over the administration of the medical school and organized its own higher educational structure into a junior and senior college program.

(2) There was no central administration of the colleges under Board of Education supervision from 1918 to 1933. Each institution was administered separately by a dean appointed by the Board. During this time period a fourth college was added which offered a degree program in pharmacy.

(3) Wayne University was organized under the Detroit Board of Education in 1933. The institution had four Presidents from 1933 to 1956, although actual administration of the University during the first twelve years rested with an Executive Vice-President appointed by the Board. Each administration made its own distinctive contributions to the development of the University.

President Henry can be said to have contributed most greatly to the growth of the University, having served as chief administrator for the longest period during the time under study, and having supervised University development through times of extreme changeover during and after World War II.

CHAPTER III
THE BEGINNING DECADE OF THE
PUBLIC ADDRESS ACTIVITIES PROGRAM
1918-1928

It was shown in Chapter II that the College of Liberal Arts of Wayne University records its beginning to coincide with the founding of "Detroit Junior College" in 1918. Its development progresses through and beyond the transition to the Junior College to "College of the City of Detroit," until 1933, when the Liberal Arts College was instituted as part of the newly-created Wayne University. The public address activities program follows this same progression of development within these institutions.

The initial ten years of public address activities at Wayne University represent not only the beginning of the program but also a struggle for its maintenance and, at times, its very existence. It was not until 1928, when Preston H. Scott joined the faculty as an Associate Professor of public speaking, that the public address activities began amplification that would eventually lead to national prominence, status and prestige.

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the beginning years of student public address activities of

Wayne University, from its inception in 1918 through 1928 which, according to Hanawalt and Mason, was a year of rapid expansion for the entire college.²²

Commencement of the Program

Intercollegiate public address activities of Wayne University officially began on March 29, 1918 in the auditorium of Central High School, 4841 Cass Avenue, Detroit, Michigan with an evening debate between Detroit Junior College and the Detroit College of Law. Three men on each team debated the proposition "Resolved: That the Philippines, after the War, be granted their independence and recognized as a sovereign power." The Junior college affirmative team was awarded a unanimous decision from three prominent Detroit businessmen who judged the contest. The Collegian, student newspaper of Detroit Junior College, praised the effort:

"Our boys certainly acquitted themselves well, being brimful of arguments. They answered those of their opponents with a surety and quickness that left no doubt in the minds of the judges."²³

This particular debate can only be distinguished as the first one to take place at the institution. It cannot be accredited as the source from which a continuing debate

²² Hanawalt, Leslie L., and Mason, Phillip P., "Historical Information on Wayne State University," op. cit., p. 12

²³ The Collegian, April 25, 1918

program grew because official records do not indicate further interscholastic debate until 1921, when open support for debate became apparent and an inter-school competitive program was instituted.

A search for causes for the apparent halt of the debate program in 1918 and its subsequent two year postponement reveals little tangible evidence. Official publications of Detroit Junior College for the years 1919-1920 do not mention a competitive debate program. Neither does the student newspaper. However, debate training was included in the curriculum and the faculty member who coached the Junior College team to victory in 1918 remained with the institution for two years thereafter.²⁴

Further substantiation of a two-year lapse between 1919 and 1921 is indicated by the wording of an article in The Collegian on March 2, 1921. the article stressed the organization of debating teams at Detroit Junior College:

At a meeting held Friday, February 11, in Room 130, under the auspices of the Student Council, it was decided that Junior College should organize debating teams. William Freiwuth was appointed as student manager and the dates for tryouts were set for February 16th and 17th...."

²⁴ Evidence for Curricular debate training is found in the official Detroit Junior College Bulletins for the years 1919 and 1920. Personnel files of the Detroit Board of Education reveal that Mr. Arthur Barnard, coach of the first debate on March 29, 1918, remained on the Junior College faculty until June, 1920.

At the conclusion of the tryouts for the Junior College debating teams Thursday, February 17, the judges, consisting of Messrs, Russell, Leven, Tompkins, Dickerson and Brede, chose the following men to represent two debating teams. Ross Campbell, Harry Platt, Harold Balter, William Gerlach, Reuben Hallman and Irving Iskovitz. Mr. Nielson, of the oratory department, will coach both teams...Many offers have already been received from State Colleges to debate J. C.Coach Nielson seems very much satisfied with both teams, and there is no doubt in his mind that as long as he continues to get the support of the student body, the Junior College teams will be successful.²⁵

Thus debate as a school activity was organized and officially adopted on Friday, February 11, 1921. Mr. Niel Neilson, entering his first year as a Junior College instructor in oratory, was named coach of the debating teams.

Student support for organizing debate activities was strong in 1921. The actual impetus for intercollegiate competition came about through the organization of a student club in January, 1921, which was called the "House of Burgesses." It was dedicated to furthering debate, oratory and public speaking as well as promoting social activities for its members. The House of Burgesses' organization was similar to the United States House of Representatives, each member representing a different state. At each meeting the representative body would draft a bill which was usually phrased as a resolution and stated

²⁵ The Collegian, March 2, 1921, p. 1

affirmatively in a declarative sentence, as is a proposition for debate. The House of Burgesses did not purport to debate competitively with other schools, although debating issues and encouraging public speaking were primary functions. Members were more interested in the political aspects of the organization and debating was parliamentary rather than of the orthodox style found in intercollegiate contests. It's important contribution to Neilson's program was the fact that it fostered and encouraged student activities in public speaking.

Neilson's teams were successful in their first "full" debate season, even though only one home-and-home round of debate was held before school ended in June. In two debates, Detroit Junior College defeated Michigan State Normal College of Ypsilanti, winning the first decision 3-0 and the second 2-1. Once again the Junior College experienced an optimistic start toward the development of a speech activities program but this time there would be no halt.

The Continuing Struggle to Develop the Program

As the school year 1921-1922 began Donald S. Leonard, a young debater, was appointed by Neilson to manage the debate team. Leonard was vigorous in recruitment of debaters and he showed an eagerness to try new ideas. An

announcement in the school newspaper carried the following information:

A women's debating team should be formed at (Detroit) Junior College; Don Leonard, manager of the men's debating team announced this week. Mr. Leonard suggests that he is willing to interview girls at any time and that debates with normal colleges would be arranged.²⁶

Response was so poor, that a debate schedule for women was not attempted that year.

A men's debating team was organized February 22, 1922 and a schedule of home-and-home debates was arranged. The proposition debated was "Resolved: That the principle of the closed shop should be adopted in American Industry." Debates were held between Detroit Junior College and Kalamazoo Normal College, Alma College, Olivet College, Toledo University and Michigan Agricultural College of Lansing.

On January 31, 1924, an oratorical contest was held in the auditorium of College and the City of Detroit. All of the day and evening class sections were represented by orators and a medal, purchased through contributions from the various classes, was awarded for first place. Dr. Virgil V. Phelps, a first-year instructor in public speaking, conducted the contest. In publicizing the

²⁶ The Collegian, February 20, 1922, p. 1

contest, The Collegian quotes Dr. Phelps: "The speeches given in this contest represent the progress made in oratory at City College.²⁷ This event led to a series of oratorical contests within the college and, subsequently, to inter-school competition two years later.

Buoyancy was given to student debate activities by The Collegian in an editorial on January 21, 1924 entitled "The Place of Debating:"

One of the best winter sports in which students indulge has never been completely recognized at City College. We refer to debating, an activity which has suffered and continues to suffer from poor support given it by the student body. After a team has been carefully selected and coached for weeks, the speakers find themselves giving their arguments, and rebuttals to discouraging rows of empty seats. Let us hope that students of City College will eventually recognize the high place of debating and give it the attention it justly deserves.²⁸

One indication of an attempt to stimulate the debate program was another try to form a women's debate team. An organizational meeting was held on February 28, 1924 with eight women present. Again the attempt proved futile and no schedule of competition for women was set for that year.

The men's team debated a full schedule in the spring of 1924 on the proposition "Resolved: That the United States should enter the League of Nations."

²⁷ The Collegian, January 16, 1924, p. 3

²⁸ The Collegian, January 21, 1924, p. 1

Probably the most significant public speaking highlight at City College for the 1923-24 school year was the installation of the Michigan Zeta chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, a national forensic society. This was the first national honorary society to grant a chapter to the College. Professor Brown of Michigan Agricultural College installed the chapter on April 12, 1924. The charter members were Mr. Neil Neilson, Donald S. Leonard, Edwin Guest, Homer Strong, Normal Mogel, Philip Dexter and Forbes Hascall. Installed as honorary members were Governor Alex J. Groesbeck, Assistant Dean Albertus Darnell and Professor James H. Russell of the Government Department.²⁹

During the next three school years public address activities remained, for the most part, rather stable except for a few sporadic attempts to develop women's debating and competitive oratory.

During the school year 1924-25, debate activities were limited to one contest with Crane Junior College of Chicago on the proposition "Resolved: That Detroit has greater possibilities for development than Chicago." The City College affirmative team lost by a 2-1 margin. Prior to the start of the debate season debate coach Phelps publicized an impressive schedule which included challenges

²⁹ The Collegian, April 30, 1924, p. 3

from other schools for women's debating.³⁰ For some reason this schedule never generated.

The first attempt to enter competitive oratory was initiated by Phelps in the spring of 1925. City College entered a National Oratory Contest sponsored by the Better American Federation of California. The purpose of the contest was to increase respect for and develop interest in the Constitution of the United States.³¹ On April 9, 1925, Donald T. Wade won the City college preliminary contest. His manuscript was submitted to the district review board in Chicago for competition at this higher level but was not selected and Wade did not proceed in the contest.

At the end of the 1924-25 school year, City College was admitted to the Ohio-Michigan Intercollegiate Debating Conference. Seven other schools were members of the Conference: Adrian College, Bluffton College, Bowling Green State Normal College, Defiance College, St. John's University of Toledo and Findlay College. During the following school year the "Munies"³² only met two of these schools, losing to Findlay and Bowling Green on the

³⁰ The Collegian, op. cit., January 8, 1925 and March 4, 1925.

³¹ The Collegian, March 11, 1925, p. 3

³² "Munies" was the nickname for the City College team as recorded in The Detroit Collegian, February 24, 1926.

proposition "Resolved: That the United States should subsidize commercial aviation." Two other debates were held at City College that year, one with California University and the other with Albion College. The City College teams won both of them supporting and opposing the proposition "Resolved: That the United States should recognize the present government of Russia."

The first women's debate team to actually compete for City College defeated the women's team of Michigan State College in April, 1926. The proposition was "Resolved: That the United States should pass a twentieth amendment to the Constitution, prohibiting child labor." The Oxford audience opinion ballot was used in the contest.³³

In oratory, City College entered the 1926 National Collegiate Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Better America Federation of California. Margaretta Callahan, coached by Phelps, placed third in the Michigan State Finals and did not go on to further competition.

The promises for an extensive debate program were many at the beginning of the 1926-27 school year. Dr. Phelps predicted that this would be "one of the best seasons" for City College.³⁴ It was announced in the school newspaper

³³ The Detroit Collegian,

³⁴ Op. cit., October 13, 1926 p. 1

that a schedule was being arranged which would provide for debates with Leland Stanford University, College of the City of New York, City College of Chicago, George Washington Universities, "several eastern colleges,"³⁵ and the University of Sydney, Australia. An editorial in the November 10 issue of The Detroit Collegian encouraged more attention to debate:

We have a debate team in the college. Heretofore no one has known very much about debaters and their doings.....A review of the 1926-27 schedule cannot but command the respect of the college.³⁶

Debating and public speaking stirred substantial interest among the student body that year. Public speaking clubs were formed; among them, two were prominent in the college. The Senate (later changed to The Pen and Gavel) was an organization devoted to the "promotion" of the study of literature and the art and practice of debating."³⁷ Members of this club were, for the most part, students who were not actively involved with debating. The debaters themselves started a club "to promote and further interest among the students in student debating." It was called the "Burchenschaften,"³⁸ taken from the name of an early 19th

³⁵ Op. cit., October 20, 1926, p. 1

³⁶ Op. cit., November 10, 1926, p. 1

³⁷ Ibid., p. 1

³⁸ Op. cit., November 17, 1926, p. 1

century German student organization which was dedicated to freedom of opinion.

In spite of the early enthusiasm shown that year, less than half of the scheduled debates actually took place. According to Dr. Phelps, debate coach, the debates with the city colleges New York and Chicago were cancelled because those schools lacked funds for the expenses of their teams. Furthermore, the schedule with several Eastern schools was cancelled due to "inexperience of the debaters on the City College team."³⁹ Only three schools were met: University of Sydney on the proposition "Resolved: That an international convention should be called to formulate a plan for international government."; Leland Stanford University of California on the proposition "Resolved: That we have more to fear, than to hope, from science."; and George Washington University on the "International Government" proposition.

Disappointment over the manner in which the debate season progressed was reflected by an editorial in the student newspaper on January 19, 1927:

The debating team from Stanford University met the team for College of the City of Detroit and, although there was no formal decision made, the California men made the local debaters look bad. The California team captain made the statement that the

³⁹ The Detroit Collegian, March 2, 1927, p. 2

City College team had offered the best arguments that they had run into so far, not considering presentation. If that is true, debating in America is in a bad way. The Stanford men, in the first place, were old men in the game. They had long years of training and coaching. One of the City College debaters made a statement that, unless there was a different method of formulating briefs, City College would continue to have poor teams. A few hours before the Stanford Debate one of the City (College) debaters refused to compete, because the coach had, without warning, cut and changed his speech so much that the student felt that it would be useless to present it at all. Another man on the squad was notified at five o'clock that his speech was not what was wanted and that there would have to be a revision. The practice of making sudden changes in a program is not a new procedure, according to debaters. It is very apparent there is something wrong in debate circles. Time after time the cry has gone up that there is not the proper support given to the debating team. When any inquiry has been made, the answer has been that no one is ever sure who is going to compete, because the appointments are made at the last minute; further, no one is ever sure of having his speech left alone. That is what that debaters themselves say. In this college there are many good men for the debating team and, for some reason, no one is able to persuade them to try out.

Whatever the faults are in the administration of debating affairs, we can be sure of this much: there never will be any attention paid to debate, until there is complete harmony between coaches and speakers; for until then debates will be poor."⁴⁰

The debate season for 1926-27 officially closed with the final debate between City College and George Washington University on February 10, nearly two months before the original expectation of April 1.

⁴⁰ Ibid. January 19, 1927, p. 2

In oratory, City College again participated in the National Collegiate Oratorical Contest on the Constitution. Miss Yetta Pieman was the City College winner with her oration entitled: "The Constitution is the Ideal of Humanity." She placed fourth in the state finals and did not go on to further competition.⁴¹ City College entered two additional oratory contests in 1927: Michigan Intercollegiate Peace Oratorical contest and the Pi Kappa Delta national contest. The school did not have a state winner in either of these contests.

The school year 1926-27 was an unsuccessful year for public address activities at College of the City of Detroit. The debate schedule planned at the beginning of the school year was less than half fulfilled. Moreover, there was an indication of dissent on the manner in which the competitive debate program was administered. Aspirations for intercollegiate oratory were fostered through entry in three separate contests, although City College did not emerge victorious beyond the local level. Nevertheless, there were definite indications that something needed to be done in order to resume enthusiasm

⁴¹ The regional finals of this contest were held at City College even though Miss Pieman did not compete. Bernice Dendel, a student at Michigan State College, represented the state.

for debate and oratory at City College. That something was personified the following year in a young man named Preston H. Scott.

Stimulation of the Program Under Scott

Preston H. Scott came to College of the City of Detroit in the fall of 1927, as an Associate Professor of Public Speaking and director of the debate and oratory programs. He had spent the previous five years as a debate coach at Purdue University. His aim during his first year as coach of debate was obvious: broaden the program and involve more students.

A full schedule of debates and a successful season was initiated immediately at the beginning of the 1927-28 school year. Scott announced plans for a full schedule, which would include teams from Butler University, Michigan State College, Purdue, Albion, Kansas Aggies and the University of Iowa. He stressed a rigid schedule of tryouts for those students wishing to debate. He recruited vigorously, as noted by a quotation found in the September 26 edition of The Detroit Collegian:

It is certainly necessary that a squad of at least 100 should turn out, otherwise we will lose every debate."⁴²

⁴² The Detroit Collegian, September 28, 1927, p. 1

One of Scott's promotional points was that at least twelve debaters would represent City College during the year. This was a strong point, since only three students were on the squad during the previous year. Another point stressed by the new debate coach was that the debaters would travel to different cities at least twice. This was an advantage over the previous year, since the three debates held all took place in Detroit. Scott also introduced two important new ideas: (1) all debates would be decided by a single critic judge and (2) a forensic board, consisting of faculty members and students, would supervise the entertainment of teams, funds and other matters.⁴³ This was a break from past administration of the debate program. All three debates during the previous year had been conducted with no decision being rendered. Further, the creation of a forensic board was contrary to the former year's policy, which provided for all decisions being made by Dr. Phelps.

After a successful series of try-outs, eighteen men and women were selected for the debate squad. There were no separate teams for men and women; Professor Scott grouped the debaters together into teams of three.

⁴³ Ibid., October 5, 1927, p. 1

A full season of debates for City College took place that year, involving the six schools in the original schedule plus Detroit College of Law. Professor Scott's debaters won all except three out of twelve debates, making the first year of debating under his auspices as coach highly successful. The only disadvantageous occurrence happened on March 14, after a debate in which City College defeated Michigan State College at East Lansing. Scott was driving four of his debaters home from the victory when his car collided with a truck owned by the Interstate Motor Company of Detroit, three miles south of Webberville on U.S. 16. One of the debaters, George Deffinbough, was taken to a Lansing hospital with a brain concussion. The other three students, Leslie Bloom, Theodore Baruch and Norton Rosin, received minor injuries and Professor Scott sustained severe lacerations on his wrists and face. All except Deffinbaugh recovered rapidly; George did not return to school that semester.

Preston Scott set one final precedent in debate before the 1928 school year ended, when he instituted a program of spring practice for debaters. This idea was approved unanimously by the debaters at a meeting held in April.

The debate season of 1927-28 ended with a formal reception held at the Detroit Masonic Temple. Many of the

debaters received gold medals for outstanding performance during the debate season.⁴⁴

Only one feature of the 1927-28 speech program was missing; there had been no competition in oratory during the school year. Scott obviously gave his time to debate. It was, perhaps, this devotion to debate and a strong desire to build the debate program which accounted for the lack of emphasis on oratory. A line from an article in the student newspaper suggests:

Professor Scott has been too busy with the debating team to do much about oratorical work. However, City College will enter the Peace and Constitutional Contests this year, and may join the Michigan State Oratorical Association.⁴⁵

But the Forensic Board, which Scott created, adopted a resolution not to participate in either the "Peace" or the "Constitution" oratory contests. This move was attributed to alleged "propaganda" involved in the contests. The resolution contained three parts:

Resolved: (1) That the College should not participate in any oratorical contests that are promoted for propaganda purposes.

(2) That the debate board shall determine whenever contests are being promoted for propaganda purposes.

⁴⁴ Receiving medals were Harvey Bielfield, James Buckley, Leslie Bloom, Theodore Baruch, Don Elleson, Fred Herrmann, Russell Marsden, Joseph Solomon, Charles Walters and Clarence Wylie

⁴⁵ The Detroit Collegian, October 19, 1927, p. 3

(3) That the debate board shall render reasonable assistance to students desiring to participate individually and unofficially in such contests."⁴⁶

Thus, competitive intercollegiate oratory was omitted in 1928. Yet a successful year in debate was carried out by an enthusiastic debate coach and a capable squad of debaters. The lack of oratory did not stop the program. At the end of the first ten years of public address competition, City College was finally beginning to establish itself in the intercollegiate ranks of speech activities.

Summary

The purpose of this chapter was to describe the first ten years of public address activities at Wayne University, which, during this time, was initially a small institution called "Detroit Junior College." This was later expanded into a four-year institution known as "College of the City of Detroit."

The first debate was held in March, 1918. Two school years passed before a debate program was officially adopted under the auspices of the student council. In 1923 oratory joined debate as an activity at the college but actual inter-school competition did not take place until 1925.

⁴⁶ The Detroit Collegian, March 7, 1928, p. 1

Pi Kappa Delta, a forensic fraternity, became the first national honorary fraternity to install a chapter at the College of the City of Detroit in April, 1924.

The school years between 1924 and 1927 cannot be categorized as strong years for development of public address activities. There were several attempts to develop competition in oratory but City College did not bring forth strong contestants. By the end of the 1926-27 school year, there was a general feeling that improvement was needed in the administration of the debate program. The yearly schedule was less than one half completed and debaters were complaining about the problems involved.

The scope of debate activities broadened with the arrival of Preston H. Scott as Debate Coach and Associate Professor of Public Speaking in the fall of 1927. New ideas in recruitment and administration of the program were brought forth and a full schedule of debates was attempted and completed with much success. Although there was no attempt to compete in oratory, the development of Scott's program and the enthusiasm generated by this coach and his students brought the first decade to a close with a note of promise for future gains in public address activities.

CHAPTER IV

THE GENERATIVE PERIOD

1928 - 1941

The thirteen years between 1928 and 1941 formed an intrinsic period in the history of public address activities at Wayne University. They began with an informal separation of courses in public speaking, radio, theatre and oral interpretation, and related public speaking programs, from the general curriculum of the Department of English, making a separate entity under the administrative leadership of Preston H. Scott. They terminated just before the advent of World War II, when nearly all speech activities would be reoriented and channeled to serve the defense programs of a concerned community.

They were thirteen years of enterprising development in the realm of public address activities, sparked by the enthusiasm and vigor of a talented coaching staff, who worked hard to establish a tradition of formidable strength that endures to the present day. This was a period of generation; a time of organization, establishment and productive augmentation of competitive speech programs for the students of Wayne University.

The purpose of this chapter is to discuss the development of intercollegiate debating and other student public address programs at Wayne University during the period between the beginning of classes in the fall of 1928 and the end of the second semester in June, 1941. These programs will be examined individually rather than as an aggregate, tracing the chronological evolution of each activity through this period.

Debate

The 1928 debate season began under the administration of a newly-created "Department of Speech" headed by Professor Preston H. Scott.⁴⁷ To coach this activity the college acquired E. Ray Skinner, a bright young man who had been teaching argumentation and debate at the University of Wisconsin for four years. His was the task of directing

⁴⁷ In his book, A Place of Light, Leslie L. Hanawalt explains that an increasing faculty and student body around 1928-29 caused a number of academic subject areas to be elevated to the status of departments. Speech became in reality, a separate department of the College in the fall of 1928, although formal separation from the English department did not occur until several years later. Preston H. Scott coordinated all speech activities of academic and performance natures. He was, in effect, the first chairman of the Department of Speech. (Hanawalt, Leslie L., A Place of Light Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1968 p. 185.)

all debate activities for City College and he brought fresh ideas and a promise of success to the campus.⁴⁸

Along with the transfer of Scott to an administrative post and the addition of Skinner as coach of debate, another significant change took place: the Forensic Board, which was formed by Scott and which made several important decisions in the previous year, was gone. Scott was the department head; decision-making, and the responsibility for it, were his.⁴⁹

Skinner conducted tryouts in his first year in much the same way as had been done before at City College. One change offered by the new coach was the establishment of an "eligibility" rule: the permanent varsity team would consist of twelve men with a few substitutes and alternates. Places on the varsity team were assigned before each series of debates rather than for the entire season. Each man consequently held his place on the team as long as his work was satisfactory.⁵⁰ Another alteration from the previous year was the exclusion of freshmen from the varsity teams. To compensate for this, The Pen and

⁴⁸ A personal interview with E. Ray Skinner in August 1965, revealed that many of the decisions regarding the debate program in his first year were made by Scott, although there was seldom direct administrative interference with Skinner's activities.

⁴⁹ Personal interview with E. Ray Skinner, August, 1965

⁵⁰ The Detroit Collegian, October 28, 1928, p. 1

Gavel club changed its membership orientation toward members of the Freshmen Class. Eligibility for club membership stressed welcome for "freshmen who expect to go out for the squad next year."⁵¹

The debaters completed a successful year in the spring of 1929, losing only three of twenty debates. Members of the squad were Theodore Baruch, Hans Boening, Dan Ellison, Frederick Herrmann, Florian Lux, Gerald Lynch, Russell Marsden, Carlyle Michaelman, Norton Rosen, Richard Sherod, Charles Walters and Clarence Wylie. The proposition debated was "Resolved: That the public should own and operate all hydro-electric power plants which offer electricity for sale." In its first year, the Department of Speech could boast of attaining high honors in competitive debate—a phenomenon which it would continue to enjoy for years to come.

Debate at City College during the 1929-30 school year included two innovations from the previous season.

First, a system of intermural debating was organized. The theory behind this was, according to Dr. Skinner, to spark an interest in debate among the students, using

⁵¹ Ibid., October 19, 1928, p. 3

interclass rivalry as a catalyst.⁵² The initial promotion story appeared in The Detroit Collegian:

At last it has arrived: Detroit City has had intra-mural athletics, but never before has anyone suggested intra-mural debating.

Whether it was because it was felt that the general level of intelligential was too low for debating to become a popular sport, we don't know but certainly there is no such feeling now. In fact, Mr. Harold E. Stewart, of the Geology Department, recently made the remark that there are some intelligent students enrolled at Detroit City this semester.

George Berkaw, President of the Senior class, evidently relying on senior dignity, says the other classes haven't a chance...One novel feature of the debates will be that women will compete on an equal basis with men. Richard M. Sherod, varsity debate manager, feels that "with the exception of dances, inter-class debating will be the only competitive activity in school in which men and women will compete on an equal basis."

In anticipation of inter-class debate becoming an annual event keen rivalry is expected among the four classes for the possession of the plaque that is to be awarded to the winner of the first year's competition."⁵³

Inter-class competition was stressed in most of the publicity about the class debates. Organization of teams was based on selecting one affirmative and one negative team each consisting of two men and one woman to represent each class. The proposition to be debated reflected social circumstances of the day: "Resolved: That the

⁵² Personal interview with E. Ray Skinner, August, 1965

⁵³ The Detroit Collegian, November 6, 1929, p. 1

Constitution of the United States be amended to permit the sale of four percent light wines and beer."

Despite substantial publicity and high hopes for intramural debating successes among the varsity squad,⁵⁴ the classes did not all respond entirely to the call. The Freshmen and Sophomore teams were complete in representation; the upperclassmen combined efforts and formed teams representing both Junior and Seniors. The final contest was won by an affirmative sophomore team, composed of Meyer Miller, Charles Ohno and Bernice Brennan. They defeated a negative team of two seniors and one junior to capture the inter-class championship.

The second innovation was the incorporation of women's debating teams for direct interscholastic competition. Organization of women's debate was no easy task, because of a lack of sufficient women students trying out for the team. Nearly one month after his initial announcement of women's debate appeared in The Detroit Collegian, Skinner published a cancellation of this activity in the same paper.⁵⁵ His official reason was insufficient demand for the activity.

⁵⁴ Personal interview with E. Ray Skinner, August, 1965

⁵⁵ The Detroit Collegian, November 13, 1929.

During the second week in January, 1930, a women's affirmative team from City College met a co-ed negative team from the University of Michigan in a non-decision contest held in Ann Arbor. Natalie Wisinski, Bernice Brennan and Jeanne Wylie represented City College, defending the proposition, "Resolved: That the present extend of installment buying of goods for private consumption is in the best interests of the nation." Whereas Skinner was originally scheduled to take on both coaching jobs, it was Scott who emerged as coach of the women's team, two months after Skinner's announcement of cancellation.

The women debaters met women's teams from Ypsilanti State Normal College, Western State Normal College of Kalamazoo, and Butler University in decision contests during the remainder of the school year, losing all of their debates. Members of the team were Dorothy Ballard, Bernice Brennan, Norma Siegal, Margaret Stockwell, Natalie Wisinski and Jeanne Wylie. The proposition debated in these contests was "Resolved: That chain stores are detrimental to the public welfare."

Varsity men's debate under Skinner encompassed a total of thirty-two contests for the year. The team won twelve out of nineteen decision debates and participated in eight

non-decision contests with other colleges. In addition, the squad engaged in five practice debates before private citizen's groups in the community. This latter activity was credited as being quite successful and worthwhile as a new endeavor for debating at City College.⁵⁶ Members of the men's team included Frank Amprim, Garnet Garrison, Harry Golder, Leo Gurko, Fred Herrmann, Glen Massnick, Jerome Rothenberg, Everett Seymour, Richard Sherod, Charles Stewart and Clarence Wylie.

At the end of the school year in 1930 it was publicized that the Speech Department was adding a new instructor, Rupert L. Cortright, whose primary duties would involve coaching the freshmen and women's debate teams. His background was impressive: A native of Michigan, he had completed undergraduate studies at Albion College and received an M.A. from the University of Michigan. Having taught for two years at Syracuse University, he was to spend the summer months teaching at Northwestern University in addition to pursuing the completion of a Ph.D. degree at the University of Wisconsin. He was well known from his work as chairman of the National Committee for the Advancement of Speech Training in the Secondary Schools and

⁵⁶ The Detroit Collegian, April 3, 1930, p. 3

for his contribution as an associate editor of the Quarterly Journal of Speech.

The 1930-31 debate season opened with full schedules for men's and women's debate teams. E. Ray Skinner continued as coach of the men while Rupert Cortright assumed the task of promoting, organizing and rebuilding the women's teams.

For the men's debate team, Skinner chose fifteen students: Louis Esterling, Richard Fleming, Garnet Garrison, Harry Golder, Leo Gurko, Frederick Herrmann, Glen Howell, Hugh Maloney, Henry McNeeley, Glen Massnick, Jack Miller, William Mouser, Jerome Rothenberg, Everett Seymour, Richard Sherod and Clarence Wylie. It was a successful season for the men's teams. Nine victories were gained in eleven debates. The proposition debated was "Resolved: That the several states enact compulsory unemployment insurance laws to which the employer shall contribute." The team met Bowling Green University, Butler University, Boston University and the University of Notre Dame. In addition, the team met Northwestern University and Kansas State Teacher's College debating the proposition "Resolved: That the several states should require automobile owners to carry public indemnity insurance of not less than \$8,000 for property and \$10,000 for person." In non-decision

contests, City College met the University of Michigan and Purdue.

Women's debating ended its season with remarkable improvement over the previous year's record. Four decision contests were held and three of them ended in victory for City College. Ten women debated: Bernice Brennan, Helen Cartwright, Juanita Cruse, Lillian Dickson, Ruth Eder, Gail Foster, Nedra Smith, Geraldine Wieman, Natalie Wisinski and Jeanne Wylie. The teams debated the same two propositions as did the men debaters, meeting teams from the University of Michigan, Indiana, Purdue and Western Reserve Universities. In addition, several non-decision contests were held before the start of the regular season.

Cortright introduced two styles of debating in his first year which were new to debaters at City College. Besides the orthodox and non-decision type of contests, he arranged an event in which each speaker was allowed fifteen minutes for constructive speeches, with no rebuttal except by the first affirmative speaker, who was given ten minutes for her constructive speech and five minutes for rebuttal. Also, he provided for several debates in which each team was composed of only two members instead of the traditional three.

The most noteworthy introduction to the 1931-32 debate season was the addition of a staff member in the Speech Department, whose essential task was to direct women's public address activities. Mrs. Elizabeth G. Youngjohn, a highly successful and well-known speech teacher in the Detroit Public School system, joined the faculty as coach of women's debate and oratory. As a teacher at Pershing High School, she had often been called upon to judge debates for City College; now, as a member of the staff, she was to begin an outstanding career in speech pedagogy at Wayne University.

Mrs. Youngjohn took over the women's debate responsibilities from Rupert Cortright, who assumed the task of directing men's debate. E. Ray Skinner assumed other duties in the department, in the fields of speech science and oral interpretation.

One of the chief concerns of the debate coaches, as they begin the 1931-32 season, was recruitment of men and women for varsity teams. Graduation and transfer to other institutions had depleted the previous year's squad; a system had to be devised to bring forth potential debaters.

Two avenues of recruitment were devised. The first was not a new conception to City College, but it was brought forth with much publicity and appeal. A system of

interclass debates was promoted, pitting classes in spirited competition, the winning class to receive four trophies and a plaque. An early announcement in the school newspaper carried the details:

The conquests of the inter-class debates champions-to-be will be immortalized this year by four trophies and a plaque, to be presented at some future convocation...

Recent changes in the method of procedure will allow any two persons to form a team, providing, of course, that they are in the same class. As a result, fraternities, sororities, and other organizations may form their own representation.

The question which will be debated, "Resolved: That faculty censorship of student publications in the College of the City of Detroit be abolished" is one which ensures keen rivalry, and should be of interest to every student in this institution...

In addition, the speech students will be given an excellent chance to get some laboratory work and actual speech experience, as everyone is guaranteed participation in the round robin debates...

Because of the depletion of the varsity debate squad through graduation, Mr. Cortright has expressed the desirability of a large turnout. Mr. Cortright and Mrs. Youngjohn strongly urge that all students who contemplate trying out for the varsity debate squads should enter the inter-class contests, as the varsity tryouts will immediately follow. No varsity debater will be permitted to compete.

Pi Kappa Delta, honorary forensic society, will sponsor the contest and their members, speakers of considerable ability, will coach the contestants.⁵⁷

⁵⁷ The Detroit Collegian, September 28, 1931, p. 1

The inter-class elimination contests began on October 22. Seventy-two contestants competed during the tournament, which ended in victory for the freshmen class over the second place sophomores. The success of these debates is reflected in the words of Cortright as he was quoted in the school newspaper:

All students who have participated, either winning or losing, have shown an excellent spirit of good sportsmanship and accordingly have reaped greater benefits, both from the (standpoint) of speaking and thinking.

I am personally greatly interested in discussions of questions that really concern students, but I have been even more impressed by the individual values which I have observed, for instance, the extent to which students have come to discuss this question with faculty members and one another, with the resultant recognition of mutual interests and varying viewpoints...

Each student has come to realize and accept more actively his or her responsibility to contribute to the future of Detroit City College.⁵⁸

A second means of recruitment was new to the speech department. It was directed not only to debate and forensic activities, but to every other area within departmental realm. A banquet was given for speech majors and those interested in the field of speech on Friday, October 30. More than forty persons heard members of the faculty speak about the several areas in the field of

⁵⁸ The Detroit Collegian, November 20, 1931

speech, urging students to participate in departmental activities. Speakers included Rupert Cortright and Elizabeth Youngjohn, who discussed the debate program; Garnet Garrison, president of Pi Kappa Delta, who talked about the advantages of debating; E. Ray Skinner, who stressed the scientific aspect of speech and advocated the necessity of an underlying foundation of scientific knowledge on the part of would-be instructors;⁵⁹ Richard R. Dunham, Director of Theatre, who discussed dramatics; Gloria Rounds and Elizabeth Murphy, who discussed speech science and dramatics from the students point of view, and Preston Scott, who gave a general overview and stressed total participation in departmental functions.

As a result of such attempts to attract students to their programs, Cortright was able to choose twenty-four men for his squad and Mrs. Youngjohn selected fifteen women to represent City College.

Among the propositions debated by the men were "Resolved: That the Federal Government should enact legislation embodying the essential features of the Stuart Chase plan for the stabilization of business," and "Resolved: That the United States should adopt a compulsory

⁵⁹ No Entry in Original

nation-wide plan for the control of production and distribution in major basic industries."

Primarily, the women debated two propositions that year. For contests with Big Ten schools, the proposition was "Resolved: That Great Britain should immediately grant independence to India on the terms laid down by Mahatma Gandhi." Against colleges outside the Big Ten the proposition was "Resolved: That the United States should offer to participate in the cancelling of all inter-governmental war debts, including reparations."

One of the prime considerations for sustaining participation of a student on either the men's or women's debate squad was scholarship. Nearly one month after selection of the initial men's varsity team, Cortright cut the squad down to eighteen debaters, as was his original intention. An announcement of this cut in the school newspaper carried the following quotation:

Selections were strictly upon ability and scholarship' stated Rupert Cortright, debate coach, 'and each member is to consider his position dependent upon his ability to maintain it. I am extremely proud of the honor point average of the squad...' " ⁶⁰

Similarly, Mrs. Youngjohn expressed this concern, as evidenced in a note to a college official:

⁶⁰ The Detroit Collegian, December 10, 1931

The following are on the Women's debate squad. I would appreciate it if I may have their grades to date."

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Youngjohn⁶¹

The Oregon plan of cross-question debating was used in a few instances by both men's and women's teams. It was a fairly successful year for City College teams, even though the men's squad suffered losses in personnel through illnesses and transfer of some members to other areas of participation in the field of speech. The men participated in twenty-one debates, eleven of which were decision contests, while the women experienced ten decision contests in a total of fourteen debates. An anecdote which perhaps reflects some conditions facing the debate teams in early depression days was published by the student newspaper in January:

DEBATERS UNDERSTAND THE WORD PROSPERITY

Several days ago, three members of the varsity debating squads stood boldly in the second floor corridor in front of the office discussing fearlessly the problem of a substitute for capitalism, for that is their debate question.

They spoke loudly and Dean Wilford L. Coffey, hearing one of their remarks, came over to them and said, "Did I hear one of you say something about prosperity?"

⁶¹ Quoted from a note penned by Mrs. Youngjohn during 1931-32 school year. The note is not dated.

The young man, abashed, explained that their use of the term had been purely technical, and did not express their sentiments. The dean then explained that it had been so long since he had heard the word used on the campus that he hardly recognized it. It was for this reason, he said, that he came to inquire the reason for its use.

"We knew what the word means," one of the debaters hastened to explain, "because we had been reading an old book, written in 1916, and we found it there!"⁶²

The 1932-33 debate season was marked with a significant changeover from debate teams of three persons to teams of two debaters. In addition there was increased emphasis on "tournament" debating, wherein the entire squad was able to participate in several debates with other schools in an aggregate situation.

Several propositions were debated as the men's and women's teams experienced a comprehensive schedule with more than seventy debates. Among the most frequently used propositions were the following:

"Resolved: That Representatives to the lower house of Congress and the State Legislatures should be elected on the basis of and in proportion to their membership in occupational groups."

"Resolved: that at least 50% of state and local revenues should be derived from sources other than tangible property."

"Resolved: That the general property tax in Michigan for state and local revenues should be substantially replaced by other forms of revenue."

⁶² The Detroit Collegian, January 18, 1932

"Resolved: that a sales tax should be adopted in Michigan."

"Resolved: That an income tax should be adopted in Michigan."

Financial difficulties forced the college to cut budgets for activities and the debating program for that year was hindered. All debates away from home were cancelled. This was particularly disheartening since a debate trip to the East Coast had been planned as the culmination of the forensic season and as a reward to the debaters for the service which they had rendered during the year.

In spite of this, Cortright and Youngjohn were able to guide their teams through a successful season. Of eleven debates in which the women participated, all decision contests were won by City College. The men's squad lost only one out of twenty-six decision debates.⁶³ The men's squad was composed of Clem Ale, Jere Berkey, Donald Davis, Edward Downs, Conrad Freed, Garnet Garrison, David Goldman, Lee Hastings, Charles Hitchcock, Robert Holiday, Frank Iannelli, David Just, Jacob Hiedon, Jack Kerr, Jack Kline, George Kratchman, William Mocamber, Hugh Maloney, Don Miller, Walter Probst, Donald Quaife, Milton Rabinowitz,

⁶³ The Detroit Collegian, April 27, 1933

William Richter, Julian Tobias, and Edgar Willis. Debating for the women's squad were Margaret Cross, Gail Foster, Margaret Gallagher, Frances Holliday, Dorothy Irwin, Virginia McCracken, Nedra Smith, Mary Louise Schuck, Roberta Thompson, Dorothy Tryon and Ruth Wylie.

The 1933-34 school year was highlighted with the creation of the University under the Detroit Board of Education. Official operation of the University began on September 12; it remained under the title "Colleges of the City of Detroit" until January 23, 1934 when the name "Wayne University" was formally adopted.

Two activities highlighted the debate season that year. The first was an international debate between Cambridge University of England and Wayne University on the subject "Resolved: that the United States should adopt the essential features of the British system of radio control." It was an enjoyable affair which provided entertainment and an introduction to a lighter form of argumentation than that usually experienced by Wayne debaters.⁶⁴ A second notable event was the third annual debate tournament of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League, which was held on the Wayne University campus on February 16. Sixty-seven teams from thirteen colleges debated the proposition

⁶⁴ The Detroit Collegian, December 14, 1933, p. 1

"Resolved: That the powers of the President of the United States should be substantially increased as a settled policy." Wayne debaters captured first place in the tournament going undefeated in their eight debates.

In the women's M.I.S.L. Tournament held at Michigan State Normal College in Ypsilanti on February 9, Wayne University shared top honors with Albion College as each won six out of nine debates on the proposition: "Resolved: That substantial grants in aid be given by the federal government for primary and secondary education."

Seventeen women composed Mrs. Youngjohn's teams, which recorded a full season of home-and-home debates as well as the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League Tournament and The Delta Sigma Rho Tournament for which they received an invitation. The squad included Barbara Bryant, Margaret Cross, Virginia Green, Margaret Gallagher, Frances Holiday, Dorothy Irwin, Patricia Kaake, Mignon Kling, Virginia McCracken, Justine Maseth, Mae Partridge, Helen Rembaum, Mary Louise Schuck, Elain Swanson, Wilma Wood, Grace Woods and Ruth Wylie.

By the end of the season, coach Cortright and his men were able to reflect on an eventful and successful year. Opponents traveled more than seven-thousand miles to come to Wayne and most of them were defeated. Out of twenty-

five intercollegiate debates, Wayne lost only seven decisions. The squad also competed in nine non-decision contests and participated in twelve practice debates before civic organizations.

The men's squad was divided into varsity and freshmen teams. Twenty-two men represented Wayne during the year; these included D.G. Anderson, R. Bradley, Carl Carlson, Donald David, K. Evasheiski, Mitchel Feldman, Clifton Goddin, David Goldman, Lee Hastings, Frank Iannelli, Jacob Keidan, Joseph Kerzman, Jack Kline, Willia Macomber, L. Menton, Don Miller, Walter Probst, Milton Rabinowitz, William Richter, Anteo Tarini; Morris Weiss and Edgar Willis.

The most significant change in 1934-35 academic year was the redistribution of coaching assignments for public address activities. For this year Rupert Cortright would coach only men's oratory while Sherman Willson, a new member of the staff, would be responsible for the varsity men's debate teams. In addition, Conrad Freed, a graduate student, was assigned to coach the freshmen squad.

On Monday, December 3, 1934, more than twelve hundred people witnessed two Wayne University debaters, Conrad Fried and Edgar Willis, participate in an international

debate with two men from Oxford University.⁶⁵ The contest was held in the Wayne University auditorium and the proposition debated was "Resolved: That the abandonment of an isolationist policy is essential to American Recovery." Rupert Cortright coached the Wayne representatives for this particular event. A follow-up article in the school paper stated that a demonstration of the differences between American and British styles of debating took place. The article quoted one of the British debaters as stating these differences were mainly that in England they "debate to amuse" and in America to "instruct and to win from opposing teams."⁶⁶

The importance of this event to the speech department was demonstrated by a special publication called The Wayne Debater. It was a four-page, 6 in. x 9 in. printed document, similar in format to a small newspaper. It contained, for the most part, information about the Oxford debate; it also included a few articles giving general information about the debate program. A justification, printed on page two, explained the publication:

The Wayne Debater was born of an emergency. Because the reliable Collegian did not make its usual appearance today, we hope to remind you in this way of the Oxford debate tonight. Then, too, we had in mind

⁶⁵ The Detroit Collegian, December 6, 1934

⁶⁶ The Detroit Collegian, December 6, 1934.

that the debate news herewith might add to the total evening's enjoyment of the Oxford debate audience..."⁶⁷

One of the main propositions debated during the year was "Resolved: That the several nations should make government monopolies of the manufacture and sale of all combat instruments of war." Debating for the varsity men were Jack Baldwin, James Bruce, Oliver Carson, Mitchell Feldman, Samuel Fitzpatrick, Joseph Kerzman, Jack Kline, Edward Mackin, S. Menton, Gerard Poehlman, Thomas Ricca, Paul Rickard, Manuel Simon, Benjamin Stanczyk, Frank Telford, Morris Weiss and William Weiss. Jack Babbitt, William Burch, James Irwin, Herbert Rosenthal, William Shapiro and Leopold Snyder on the freshman squad.

The team competed with teams from thirty colleges and universities at the Manchester College Invitational Debate Tournament in Manchester, Indiana. Two propositions were debated, (1) "Resolved: That all collective bargaining should be negotiated through non-company unions safeguarded by law" and (2) "Resolved: That the several nations should agree to prevent the international shipment of munitions." Wayne demonstrated proficiency at this tournament, winning twenty debates and losing nine.

⁶⁷ The Wayne Debater, Vol. 1. No. 1, December 3, 1934

Debating on the women's teams were Margaret Cross, Ruth Eder, Marion McClelland, Mary Louise Schuck, Nedra Smith, Jean Wylie and Ruth Wylie. Nedra Smith and Jean Wylie debated as graduate students.

Although the debate teams from Wayne did not post an outstanding win-loss record during the 1934-35 year, the squads participated in a fairly extensive schedule including more than sixty debates and such tournaments as the Manchester Invitational, The Michigan State Tournament and the Delta Sigma Rho Tournament at Madison, Wisconsin. The debaters competed with students from such schools as The University of Detroit, Valparaiso University, Albion College, University of Missouri, Western Reserve, Penn State College and the University of Michigan.

The school year 1935-36 began as two notable changes occurred in the Department of Speech. As a department, speech had been functioning under Preston H. Scott since 1928, although formally all curricula and activities had been operating under the general auspices of the English Department. This year the University created a Division of Speech under Scott, which separated the entire speech administration, its faculty and programs from the English Department, and gave it to an independent status as a part of the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Education. The second

change took place within the Department itself, as Rupert Cortright resumed his former duties as director of men's varsity debate. Sherman Willson became the men's and women's oratory coach, taking over this responsibility from Cortright and Elizabeth Youngjohn. Mrs. Youngjohn remained as coach of women's debate.

Again a major highlight of the year was an international debate. David Goldman and Edgar Willis met two debaters from Cambridge University, C.J.M. Alport and John Royle. The teams met in Detroit on November 4, 1935, and debated the proposition: "Resolved: That a written constitution is a hindrance rather than a safeguard to social progress."⁶⁸ An essential feature of this debate, according to a follow-up story in the Detroit Collegian, was that humor was not as prominent as it had been in the two previous years. The British team, especially, resorted infrequently to wit and concentrated on the subject matter for the debate.⁶⁹

A summary of accounts for this debate, submitted by Rupert Cortright on the following January 7, shows a profit

⁶⁸ The Wayne Debater, Vol. II, No. 1, Nov. 4, 1935, p. 3

⁶⁹ The Detroit Collegian, November 7, 1935, p. 1

of \$110.60. An examination of income and expenses illustrates to some extent the preparation involved:⁷⁰

INCOME:

Student Salesmen -----	\$194.40
University Offices -----	38.65
Group Sales -----	15.00
Mail Orders -----	2.10
Grinnell's Box Office -----	50.85
Cass Box Office -----	101.25
Hall Tables -----	17.75
Speech Offices -----	<u>45.00</u>
TOTAL -----	\$ 465.00

EXPENSES:

Picture and Mats -----	\$ 5.56
Collegian Ad -----	6.75
Posters and Stencils -----	11.50
Envelopes and Stamps -----	7.44
Entertainment and Dinner -----	59.39
Ticket refunds -----	.90
Canadian Money envelope -----	.04
Two balls twine -----	.60
Commission at Grinnell's -----	5.08
Rental of Tuxedos -----	7.00
Cash box -----	1.55
Publicity -----	67.50
Incidentals -----	1.84
Requisitions:	
Cambridge guarantee -----	\$ 85.00
Printing tickets -----	14.25
100 posters -----	10.00
10,000 circulars and 3,000 programs -----	65.00
Janitor service at Cass -----	<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL: -----	\$ 354.40

TOTAL PROFIT \$110.60

⁷⁰ Information is taken from a summary of accounts for the Cambridge Debate, submitted by Rupert Cortright to Preston Scott, January 7, 1936

The debate teams competed in nearly one hundred contests that year, including decision and non-decision matches. Men's teams ended the season with thirteen wins and eight losses in decision debating, while the women compiled one of their best records in decision contests, winning eight and losing one. The Wayne women achieved the highest score at the Delta Sigma Rho Tournament held in March, debating four out of six matches with men's teams and winning five of these debates. They combined with the men's teams from Wayne in this tournament to tie for second place. The freshman team, coached by Jack Kline, participated in forty debates, winning fourteen and losing seven debates. This group of men also won the freshman division of the annual Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League Tournament which was held on February 18 at Albion.

The women who debated for Mrs. Youngjohn included Margaret Cross, Esther Etkin, Aspasia Georges, Shirley Kane, Sarah Kaplen, Dorothy Levy, Elaine Preshaw, Esther Stoddard, Ruth and Jean Wylie.

Included on Rupert Cortright's squad were Clarence Anderson, Jack Baldwin, Bill Burch, Anthony Gulick, James R. Irwin, Alfred Jefferson, Jack Kline, Leonard Leone, Ed Mackin, Giles Reed, Paul Rickard, Bert Robb, William

Shapiro, William Sheppard, Leo Snyder, Ben Stanczyk, Frank Tolpert and Paul Wyckoff.

Fourteen men made up the freshman squad. These were Ray Hayes, David Hoffman, Richard Kramer, Dick Lapworth, Jack McCauley, Edward Mitchell, Julian Myers, Nesbitt Patton, Alfonso Rodriguez, Donald Simmons, William Stephen, Frank Touhey, Leonard Troutman and Bob Yankey.⁷¹

Perhaps the foremost event of the 1936-37 forensic season took place near the end of the school year as a new chapter of Delta Sigma Rho, National Honorary Forensic Society, was installed at Wayne University on Saturday, May 1, 1937. The installation occurred following the ninth annual speech Department banquet, an occasion which had been taking place every year since Scott assumed his leadership role in 1928. Dr. Henry L. Ewbank, the national president of Delta Sigma Rho, traveled from the University of Wisconsin to present the charter. The charter members were Jeremiah Berkey, Nedra (Smith) Callard, Garnet Garrison, James Irwin, Shirley Kane, Jack Kline, William Macomber, Elizabeth Murphy, Milton Ribinowitz, Dorothy Reiser, Paul Rickard, Paul Wyckoff, Jean Wylie and Ruth Wylie. For the past three years, Wayne debaters had participated in the annual Delta sigma Rho Invitational

⁷¹ The Detroit Collegian, April 23, 1936, p. 2

Tournament. During this time, several members of Wayne University debating teams had been elected to membership at large. These students included David Goldman, Dorothy Irwin, Walter Probst and Edgar Willie.

A summary of the women's debate activities for 1936-37 revealed a record of nineteen wins against five losses in decision competition. Mrs. Youngjohn's squad won the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League Tournament, losing only two debates to gain top honors. In addition, the teams defeated debaters from Ohio State University, Marquette University, Creighton College and Ohio Wesleyan University. Twenty-four non-decision debates took place, three of which were broadcast on radio.⁷²

The men debaters under Rupert Cortright competed in several dual contests with opponents from such schools as Michigan State College, The University of Michigan, Albion College, Ohio State University, Ohio Wesleyan College, Western Reserve and College of the Pacific. The men also engaged in tournament debating, attending the annual Manchester Invitational Tournament at Manchester, Indiana.

The Wayne freshman teams were coached by Paul Pickard and William Burch. The highlight of their season was a

⁷² From a report signed by Elizabeth G. Youngjohn giving a summary of 1936-37 women's debate activities.

victory in the Phi Rho Pi Junior College Tournament held in Flint on Friday, April 2. According to Richard, the freshman completed an admirable season, compiling a .700 winning average over the year.⁷³

One feature of the 1936-37 debate year was the variety of debate experience to which the squads were exposed. In addition to the home-and-home and tournament debates, the squad engaged in several exhibition matches for high school students and civic organizations. Three exhibitions pitted Wayne debaters against students from Michigan State College and The University of Michigan, in performance before high school debaters who were competing in the programs of the Michigan High School Forensic Association. The college students debated the high school topic in these exhibitions, which was "Resolved: That the federal government should own and operate all utilities."

Another exhibition held on March 22, 1937, ended in victory for Wayne debaters over two men from The University of Michigan. The debate was presented before the Economic Club of Detroit and Rupert Cortright was quoted two days later in the school paper as terming the contest "The outstanding debate victory of the last year."⁷⁴

⁷³ Quoted in The Detroit Collegian, April 16, 1937, p. 3

⁷⁴ The Detroit Collegian, March 24, 1937, p. 1

Further evidence of variety in experience is found in a debate held in March at the Highland Park Y.M.C.A. Wayne debaters Leo Snyder and Ralph Nottingham met two men from Penn State in a contest employing a parliamentary system of debating, wherein neither team took a single, definite stand on the topic. A chairman governed the meeting, advocate speeches on the topic were presented and the audience participated in discussion. No decision was rendered at this event.

It was a full year for Wayne University debaters, presenting a variety of experience for the men, women and freshmen teams, which culminated in the organization of a chapter of Delta Sigma Rho and its formal installation at the end of the year.

An addendum to the 1937-38 public address activities which heightened the extent of student participation was the Wayne University Student Speaker's Bureau. It was created as a service to the community, providing student speakers for civic occasions, club meetings and the like. An explanation of the Speaker's Bureau was included on the second page of the informational brochure which was printed and distributed around the city to various groups:⁷⁵

⁷⁵ "Wayne University Student Speakers Bureau," Department of Speech, 1937.

This is entirely a student project under the supervision of the Department of Speech, Wayne University. Ordinarily there is no charge for speakers, debates, or discussions furnished by the bureau. However, inasmuch as more than 80% of the students of Wayne are defraying all or part of their expenses, it would be appreciated if transportation could be provided or paid for. You will find herein the topics our student speakers are prepared to present this season, also the subjects upon which we can present debates, either formal or cross-question style, by our own students or with other universities on our schedule.

All program chairmen are more than welcome to write to the Manager of the Speakers Bureau naming any specific needs, and recommendations will be made accordingly. Programs can be adapted to any length of time and to any audience situation. If a debate is desired it is suggested that at least thirty minutes be allowed.

Dr. Preston H. Scott
Chairman, Department of Speech

Thus, the speaker's bureau fulfilled needs in the community and in the University Speech Department which was able to supplement its activities program with practical speaking experience for students in front of audiences.

The fourth international debate for Wayne in five years took place on Wednesday, November 17, 1937 in the Cass Technical High School Auditorium. Unlike previous years, both Oxford and Cambridge Universities were represented in the debate. The English representatives did not debate on the same side. James Braun of Oxford and William Burch of Wayne defended the proposition "Resolved: That isolation is impracticable in the modern world." On

the negative were Ronald Gibson of Cambridge and Paul Wyckoff of Wayne. Following the precedent established for this event, there was no decision.

Wayne University hosted the men's state tournament of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League on Friday, February 11, 1938. Wayne had been initially designated as host for the tournament, which was scheduled to take place on January 21. At the October 1, 1937 meeting of M.I.S.L., Wayne representatives asked to be released from this obligation due to conflict with the University's final examinations. When no other colleges offered an invitation, Wayne reopened its invitation to host with the reservation that Wayne could not participate in the tournament. This was moved, recorded and carried. Subsequently, there was a ten-minute recess of the meeting after which Kenneth G. Hance, Professor of Speech at Albion College, reported that the men's state tournament would be held at Wayne University on the second Friday in February. He explained particulars of the tournament and moved that his report be adopted and that all previous debate business to the contrary be stricken from the records. His motion

was recorded and carried. Wayne debaters participated in this tournament which was won by Albion College!⁷⁶

Twenty-four men qualified for the varsity men's debate squad. They were Francis Babinski, Robert Brisley, William Burch, Robert Clark, Richard Culbertson, Edward Frohlich, Benson Ginsburg, Ray Hayes, Robert Hughes, James Irwin, Richard Kramer, Gordon Mills, Harold Morrow, Ralph Nottingham, Nesbitt Patton, Alfonso Rodriquez, Edward Sievicki, Joseph Stove, Arthur Stringari, Laurence Sweet, Leonard Troutman, Robert Wattles, Paul Wyckoff, and Robert Yankey. In discussing his debate teams, Cortright said: "This represents the most experienced squad with which we have undertaken a forensic season."⁷⁷ Many of the debaters were veterans who had achieved impressive records in competition.

The men's teams participated in an extensive schedule, competing in fifty-four debates and losing eighteen with thirteen non-decision contests, some of which were broadcast on radio. A major event for the year was an eastern trip, wherein teams met such schools as Western Reserve, Allegheny, Penn State, American University in

⁷⁶ From the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League, October 1, 1937 held at Michigan State College.

⁷⁷ The Detroit Collegian, January 5, 1938, p. 1

Washington, D.C. and Bridgewater University in Virginia. At the Manchester Tournament, Wayne men tied with Western State Teacher's College for second place behind the University of Notre Dame.

Mrs. Youngjohn's women completed the season with most of their debates being non-decision contests. Decision debating was experienced at the Delta Sigma Rho tournament in Madison, and in a meet with Calvin College in which Wayne won all three decisions. Fifteen women comprised the squad, which included Jessie Carter, Barbara Foltz, Phyllis Gougin, Jane Gougin, Rose Greenblatt, Marion Goldman, Shirley Kane, Mary Louise Hess, Ann Lukes, Hildegard Meister, Florence Myer, Dorothea Sadler, Elmira Stephens, Bette Whitley, and Stella Zadroga.

James Irwin was coach of the freshman squad, which was composed of Harold Davis, Seymour Goldman, Morey Green, Robert Jordan, William Joyce, Norman Lemon, Steward Moore, Rod Meyers, Robert Runyon, Robert Smith, Jack Veale and Henry Zmuda. The freshmen met such schools as Lawrence Institute of Technology, Detroit Institute of Technology, Grand Rapids Jr. College and Port Huron Junior College.

The principal notation in public address for the academic year 1938-39 was the creation of the position of director of forensics and the promotion of Rupert Cortright

to this role. Sherman Willson replaced Dr. Cortright as men's varsity debate coach. Cortright assumed the oratory coaching responsibilities in addition to his administrative duties.

Further elevation of responsibilities came to Cortright during the latter part of December when he was elected to the post of Secretary of the National Association of Teachers of speech and business manager of the Quarterly Journal of Speech. This was a great honor which carried a time-consuming burden; he would not be able to give as much of himself to directing activities as in the past.

Sherman Willson's teams competed with schools never before encountered by Wayne in addition to those traditionally met. McMaster University from Ontario, Canada, was entertained in February; Dartmouth College and Erskine College of Pennsylvania were contested in March and April. The debaters participated in the Savage Tournament in Durant, Oklahoma, as part of an extended trip through the South during the first two weeks in March. In addition to the Oklahoma tournament, Willson and five debaters journeyed to competition with Southern Methodist University, Louisiana State University, Louisiana State Teacher's College, Loyola University, The University of

Alabama, southern College of Birmingham, Alabama and Alabama College. A report of this trip in the school paper discussed certain differences between the "southern style" of debating and that to which Wayne teams were accustomed. Laurence Sweet, one of the debaters, stated:

We found the Southern style of debating vastly different from the North. Fiery oratory rather than a knowledge of debating technicalities and the issues involved is emphasized south of the Mason-Dixon Line. Decision debates seldom occur, since the Southern universities boast few qualified judges. The judges are merely individuals brought in who are unfamiliar with the debate question or the process of debating and who base their decisions on oratorical ability of the debaters."⁷⁸

It was a victorious, as well as extensive, debate season for the varsity men. Wayne captured first place in the annual M.I.S.L. tournament on February 11 at East Lansing in addition to winning several dual meets at home.

A prominent note to the women's debate year came with a tie for first place at the Manchester-Huntington Tournament in Indiana. Mrs. Youngjohn's teams won twenty-one and lost eleven to share the top honors with Wheaton College. A team of twins were involved in many of the women's victories that year. Constance and Virginia Wyckoff competed in several contests, including the M.I.S.L. State tournament, the Manchester-Huntington

⁷⁸ The Detroit Collegian, March 15, 1939

Tournament, the Delta Sigma Rho Tournament and dual debates with Wheaton College and Northwestern University. The twins debated on the affirmative side in all of their debates. Other members of the women's squad were Bernice Boul, Shirley Ann Brown, Jessie Carter, Mary Coracy, Emma Goldman, Mary Louise Hess, Marilyn Holton, Ida Lockman, Hildegarde Meister, Marion Meyers, Ethel Morris, Mildred Russell, Dorothy Sadler, Valeria Saether, Irene Siegal, Madeline Smith, Elymera Stephens, Betty Ann Warriner and Arla Weinart.

Ray Hayes coached the freshman teams that year. Their season was enhanced by a trip to the Manchester, Indiana tournament, the first time a freshman team from Wayne competed in this event. The proposition debated by the varsity squads in most of their encounters: "Resolved: That the United States should cease to spend public funds, including credits, for the purpose of stimulating business."

A total of thirteen men participated in debate on the varsity squad during the 1939-40 academic year. Nineteen women debated under Mrs. Youngjohn and four men composed the freshman team, which was coached by Alfonso Rodriquez. Coaching the men's varsity team this year was Paul Rickard. This signified a special development in debating for Wayne

University, being the first time that a debater had risen from the ranks of the debate team to eventually take on a major varsity coaching responsibility.

Wayne debate teams compiled a most impressive record that year, with the men's varsity winning forty-five out of sixty seven total debates. The women's teams made impressive showings at the Manchester and Delta sigma Rho Tournaments, winning twenty-seven out of thirty-six at Manchester and five out of nine at Delta Sigma Rho.

The principal debate proposition for all squads was "Resolved: that the United States should follow a policy of strict economic and military isolation toward all nations outside the Western Hemisphere engaged in armed civil or international conflict."

The 1949-41 debate season began with another former debater taking over as men's varsity coach. Alfonso Rodriequez moved to this position while George Menendez replaced him as coach of the freshman squad.

The most successful event of the season came with a victory for Mrs. Youngjohn's teams in the women's division of the state M.I.S.L. Tournament on the Wayne campus on Saturday, February 15. The squad won ten out of twelve debates to capture first place honors.

The freshman teams also fared well in their debates at the state M.I.S.L. tournament, winning all four of their debates.

In all, the debate season was marked with general success. Two varsity men, Seymour Goldman and Arthur Schmaltz were undefeated in tournament debating. It wasn't the most active year, in terms of the number of debates held, nor was it characterized by a large number of debaters, as in years past. However, the varsity teams were supported by veterans who performed well in both tournament debating and dual contests.

Oratory

Perhaps it can be said that oratory, more than any other student public address activity at Wayne, is the speech event which extended the greatest opportunity for state and national prestige for the program of the Department of Speech. In the thirteen years between 1928 and 1941, Wayne University orators gained many honors and championships, most of them under the guidance of Rupert L. Cortright. The chronological discussion which follows illustrates the development of oratory during this period.

Oratory was not given much publicity during Scott's first year as administrative head of speech at City College. Orators competed in only one local contest, which

was open solely to men from the College. A prize of \$25.00 was given to the winner by Larry Davidow, a prominent Detroit attorney.

The first real emphasis on intercollegiate oratorical competition since Scott joined the faculty came during the 1929-30 school year. City College joined the Michigan Oratorical League, a division of the Interstate Oratorical Association, and volunteered to host the preliminary tournament at Detroit.

With this expansion came two incentives for student participation, namely, the admission of women to competition and an increase of the Larry Davidow Contest award to cash prizes of fifty dollars for first place and twenty-five dollars for second place. The procedure for selection of City College representatives for the men's and women's divisions of the Oratorical League stipulated that the highest ranking man and woman in the Davidow tournament would be chosen.

Mr. Davidow was chairman of his own contest, the finals of which were held on January 20, 1930. Richard Sherod won top honors and qualified to represent the College in the state contest, while Clarence Wylie received the second place award. Helen Jo Baldwin was the highest ranking woman orator and, as such, qualified to compete in

the women's division. Both of these orators were coached by Richard R. Dunham, a member of the Speech Department staff. Rules for competition limited the women from advancing beyond the state championship level; men were permitted to compete in further contests, leading eventually to a national championship.

City College did not emerge victorious in the preliminary contest, which was won by speakers from Michigan State Normal College of Ypsilanti. As a follow-up, Scott attempted to take steps to improve the possibilities for local strength in the following year. His first move was to have an initial speech meeting in May, 1930, to organize men and women for participation beginning in the fall.⁷⁹ This had practical possibilities for improving the situation. His second move was more profound, although this was obviously not as apparent at the time as it became later on. He hired Rupert Cortright.

Thirty-two students competed in the 1930-31 preliminary trials of the Davidow contest. This was the steppingstone for City College operators to further participation, as in the previous year. Advance publicity quoted Cortright as being optimistic about city college's prospects for oratorical success:

⁷⁹ The Detroit Collegian, May 26, 1930, p. 3

We have a better chance than in any previous year,' said Mr. Cortright, 'of winning one or both of the state contests. The number of students out this year is much larger than ever before, and the period between our local contest and the district contest is longer than in previous years, so the winners will have greater opportunity to prepare their speeches.'⁸⁰

Hugh S. Maloney, a sophomore who had been a successful orator in high school, and Bernice Brennan, a junior with no previous oratorical experience, were selected from the Davidow finalists to represent City College in further competition. They both proceeded to victory in district competition and emerged as the men's and women's champions at the state contest. This was not only the first time City College had won the state contest but was also the first time in several years that the same college had won first place gold medals in both divisions. This was not the termination point for City College for Hugh Maloney went on to further competition in the divisional contest and in the National Finals. On April 24, 1931, he became the national college oratory champion in the final contest at Northwestern University. Rupert Cortright had forecast good prospects for his orators in the beginning of the forensic season. Then, coaching an orator with a speech entitled "Prospects Good," he went on to guide the

⁸⁰ The Detroit Collegian, Thursday, November 13, 1930, p. 1

achievement of a national championship in his first year as director of oratory.

A new approach to selection of orators to represent City College was inaugurated by Cortright in the fall of 1931. Separate contests for men and women were arranged, with equal prizes of fifty dollars for first place and twenty-five dollars for second place awarded in each division. Larry Davidow provided the first place and second place awards in the men's division; the speech department extended the women's division first prize and the junior women donated the other second place award.⁸¹

Another change in selection of orators for further competition was evident in an announcement in the school paper:

The speech department will reserve the right to select the participants in the state oratorical contest, regardless of who is awarded first place in tonight's contest, since it wishes to take potential ability into account.⁸²

Elizabeth Murphy and David Goldman were winners in the City College contest and, ultimately, were selected to participate in the district meet at Ypsilanti. Prior to the district contest there was some apprehension regarding the College's representation, due to an appendicitis

⁸¹ The Detroit Collegian, October 26, 1931

⁸² The Detroit Collegian, December 10, 1931

operation for Mr. Goldman and an illness which kept Miss Murphy in bed before the meet. Nevertheless, both orators were victorious and earned the right to compete for the state championship.

On Friday, March 11, 1932, City College became the first institution in the history of the Michigan Oratorical League to win first place in both divisions of the state contest two years in succession. Elizabeth Murphy won with her speech entitled "Our Modern Pied Piper;" David Goldman gained top honors with "Sinister Shadows."

Goldman went on to qualify for the national finals through victory in the Eastern division contest. Prior to his leaving for the championship meet at Northwestern University, a luncheon honoring his achievement was given at City College to which several College officials and representatives of the Detroit Board of Education came and offered good wishes. Hugh Maloney presented Goldman with a rabbit's foot which, he claimed, "pulled him through the finals last year."⁸³ Several speeches were offered during the occasion, most of which exuded optimism and praise. When called upon for comment, Cortright responded that competition in the finals was exceedingly strong and that

⁸³ The Detroit Collegian, April 28, 1932, p. 1

one should not expect too much, but added: "...we shall at least show them there is some competition."⁸⁴

Goldman did not win the national finals. Yet his achievements combined with Elizabeth Murphy's record and those of the previous year, gave added emphasis to oratory at City College.

During the 1932-33 school year Elizabeth Youngjohn took over the responsibilities of coaching the women orators for City College while Cortright continued as coach of men. There was no alteration of procedure for the local contest from the previous year. A few fringes were added, such as the presence of Bernice Brennan, Hugh Maloney, Elizabeth Murphy and David Goldman as honored guests on state during the final round, but essentially the Davidow contest was unchanged in format.

William Macomber and Isabelle Schelbe were selected as the College's representatives to the state contest. Macomber had won first prize in the men's division of the Davidow Contest. Fortunately, the budget cut of that year which affected debate travel did not hinder plans for oratory. The two representatives competed with students from eleven other Michigan colleges and universities at the state championship contest on March 10 at Olivet College.

⁸⁴ Ibid., p. 1

Albion College was victorious, winning first place in both divisions, while Macomber finished third and Miss Schelbe placed second.⁸⁵

With the creation of Wayne University in 1933, the oratory activities of the speech department expanded to include additional tournaments and contests. In addition to the program of the Interstate Oratorical Association orators under Cortright and Mrs. Youngjohn participated in the National Peace Oratorical Contest and in an All-City Oratorical Contest, sponsored by the Detroit Jewish Community Center.

Frances Holiday and Walter Probst, Jr. were winners of the Davidow Contest and, in addition, were selected to represent Wayne in the state competition. Both orators were successful in the divisional contest and went on to the state finals, which were held on March 9, 1934, at Hillsdale College. Probst emerged victorious, being the third man in four successive years to win the state oratory championship for Wayne. His oration, entitled "Homeless America," dealt with the problem at the nation's slums, with special reference to the situation in Detroit and to various phases of the Roosevelt program.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ The Detroit Collegian, March 24, 1933, p. 3

⁸⁶ The Detroit Free Press, April 24, 1934

David Goldman represented Wayne's entry in the Peace Contest, placing third in the state finals. He earned the right to participate through successful preliminary competition with fellow students. Although he wasn't the winner, his presence in the event marked a new avenue of participation in national oratorical competition.

The most successful oratory achievement of the year came with the Jewish Community Center's All-City Oratorical Contest. Five finalists were victorious in preliminary competition and all five were from Wayne. Esther Aiken, David Goldman, Ed Mackin, Sol Schiesinger and Henry Faigen competed for top prize on June 5, 1934. The winner, David Goldman, was presented with a loving cup and a gold medallion.

In the 1934-35 academic year, Edgar Willis and Ruth Wylie won first place in the Davidow contest, which, in school publicity, was called the "Davidow and Wayne University Contest."⁸⁷ They were both selected as the University's representatives to state competition. The semi-final event, in which previous Wayne orators had competed to win competitive places for the state championship, was called off due to several colleges withdrawing at the last minute, leaving only one or two

⁸⁷ The Detroit Collegian, January 14, 1935, p. 1

contestants in each division.⁸⁸ This permitted both Willis and Miss Wylie to advance directly to the final contest.

For the fourth time in five years, Rupert Cortright directed the attainment of a state oratory championship, as Edgar Willis won top honors in his division. Ruth Wylie also fared well, placing second in her division. As a result, Willis went on to further competition, ultimately gaining second place honors in the National Finals at Northwestern University.

Sherman Willson was designated to coach orators for competition in the National Peace Oratorical Contest and initial plans were formulated for preliminary trials. However, Wayne University withdrew from participation. A story about the withdrawal appeared in the school paper:

Wayne University Wednesday withdrew from the Peace Oratorical Contest the local preliminaries of which were to be held this week. At a meeting yesterday Dr. Preston H. Scott, Prof. Elizabeth Youngjohn, Mr. Rupert L. Cortright and Sherman Willson of the Speech Department decided that Wayne was already engaged in too many speech activities to do justice to the Peace Contest.⁸⁹

The most significant adjustment to the oratory program during the 1935-36 school year was the appointment of Sherman Willson as coach of both men's and women's oratory, replacing Rupert Cortright and Mrs. Youngjohn, who devoted

⁸⁸ Op. cit., March 4, 1935, p. 3

⁸⁹ Op. cit., March 31, 1935

their energies to the debate program. An article concerning Cortright's first five years as oratory coach was published in the second edition of The Wayne Debater.

Among other things, the article stated:

We coached seven students, six of whom won the Michigan State Championships and the other placed third...There are no national contests for women so only four champions could strive for further favors. All of them, (Hugh) Maloney, David Goldman, Walter Probst, Jr. and Edgar E. Willis, fought their way through qualifying rounds to become eligible for the National finals...Counting elimination and qualifying rounds, Dr. Cortright sent his students into nineteen contests. Had they placed lower than third in any one of them, they would have been automatically eliminated.

Both as an undergraduate and a coach, Dr. Cortright has an enviable record. During four years of debating at Albion College he never was a member of a losing team. He also placed second in the Michigan Oratorical finals for Albion in 1926.⁹⁰

Although Mary Louise Schuck and Morris Weiss, each was first prize in their respective divisions of the Davidow Contest, two other students, Oliver Carson and Dorothy Reiser, were selected to represent Wayne in the annual state contest. The semifinals of the women's division were cancelled for the second year in a row and Dorothy Reiser proceeded directly to the state finals and emerged the winner. Again Wayne University triumphed with a state championship. Oliver Carson, however, was eliminated in

⁹⁰ The Wayne Debater, Vol. II, No 1., November 4, 1935, p.2

the men's semifinal contest, which was held on March 6 at Alma College.

An attempt to expand the program came with Wayne's entry into the Intercollegiate Civic Oratorical League contest. Included as members in the league were Albion College, Ohio Wesleyan, Western Reserve and Wooster College. Paul Wyckoff, a varsity debater, was chosen to represent Wayne at this event, which was held in Cleveland on May 8, 1936. He placed third in final competition.

Wayne University hosted the 1936-37 annual state oratory contest of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League. Paul Wyckoff and Dorothy Spies, winners of that year's Davidow Contest, represented Wayne in the event. Each placed third in their respective divisions. A dinner was held in honor of the delegates from all participating colleges prior to the contest. Dr. Charles Spain, Executive Vice-President of the University, and Mrs. Spain welcomed the guests.

The most successful oratory endeavor of the year came when Robert Yankey took first place in the annual Civic Oratory Contest. He won over representatives from five other colleges, including Albion, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, Western Reserve and Wooster College.

The 1937-38 school year brought another significant change to oratory at Wayne University. Rupert Cortright again became Director of Oratory; this year he coached both men and women.

Bette Whitley and Gordon Mills won the Wayne University oratory contest each being awarded a cash prize of fifty dollars. An audience opinion ballot, which had no bearing on the judge's decision, was used to aid the Speech Department in determining representatives for the M.I.S.L. contest. As a result of this and other factors, Miss Whitley and Alfonso Rodriquez were selected.

The state final contest was held on March 4, 1938 at Alma College and Rodriquez became the eighth state oratory champion for Wayne University. He placed fifth in the National finals at Northwestern.

Rodriquez won additional oratory honors for Wayne that year. In the Oratory Contest division of the Delta Sigma Rho Tournament at Madison, Wisconsin, he tied for first place with a student from Carlton College.

In the annual Civic Oratory contest, which was held on May 13 at Oberlin College, Gordon Mills from Wayne University placed second.

Another expansion in oratory that year was brought about through a junior college oratory, extempore speech

and debate tournament which was held at Wayne on April 8. The tournament was directed by James R. Irwin, freshman debate coach. Two orators from Wayne, Seymour Goldman and Morey Green, won first and second places in oratory. The year 1937-38 was not only a year of precedent-setting; it was one of success in oratorical competition.

Elinore Hayes and Whitfield Connor were chosen to compete in the state M.S.S.L. Contest, which was held on March 1 at Mt. Pleasant. Miss Hayes gained second place honors in the women's division while Connor placed first, bringing another state oratory championship to Wayne. Moreover, he went on to win the national championship at the annual Interstate Oratorical Contest, which was held at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Cortright's National Championship that year was supplemented by a second place victory in the annual Intercollegiate Civic Oratorical Contest held at Wooster, Ohio. Seymour Goldman won the honors with his oration; "Look Homeward Liberty."

In the 1938-39 academic year Gordon Mills and Marion Myers represented Wayne University in the M.I.S.L. contest, which was held on March 5 at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. Mills won a silver medal for capturing second place in his division.

The Intercollegiate Civic Oratory Contest was held on May 12 in Delaware, Ohio. Whitfield Connor represented Wayne and placed third with his speech entitled "The Plague of Shadows."

Enthusiasm for oratory was high during 1939-40, as fifty-three students entered the preliminaries of Wayne's annual contest. This was the highest number of contestants to turn out for oratory since the beginning of intercollegiate competition. According to Cortright there was "every opportunity for this year's orators to continue the excellent record which Wayne has had in past intercollegiate contests."⁹¹

The 1940-41 school year was enhanced for the speech department by a most successful year in oratory competition. Dorothy Moore and Walter McGraw each won the state championship in their respective divisions. This championship was especially meaningful, since, for the first time, the Interstate Contest was open to women orators. As the first women orator to represent Michigan in this event, Miss Moore placed third. McGraw, however brought even more honor to his school by winning the men's national championship with his oration: "If Freedom Dies..."

⁹¹ The Detroit Collegian, November 8, 1939, p. 1

These victories were heightened by still another achievement. The sixth annual Intercollegiate Civic Oratorical Contest was held at Wayne on May 9, 1941. George Menendez, speaking about "The American Dream" won first place and a prize of thirty dollars.

Thus, in eleven years of competition in the programs of the Interstate Oratorical Association, Rupert L. Cortright guided his orators to a most impressive record of success which gave Wayne University a place of prominence in the field. Eleven state oratory championships were gained from 1933-1941; seven men represented Wayne at the National contest, and three of them became champions. Cortright started at the top in his first year of directing oratory for Wayne; eleven years later, he was still at the top.

Extemporaneous Speaking

It was not until 1933, after Wayne University came into being, that the Department of Speech began to enter students in competitive extemporaneous speaking events against representatives from other institutions. Perhaps this was because no real opportunity for competition existed before the creation of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League, which offered several areas of contest activity, including debate, oratory and oral

interpretation, as well as extemporaneous speaking. Lee Hastings and Dorothy Irwin, debaters under Cortright and Mrs. Youngjohn, were entered in this division as Wayne representatives. Neither contestant was successful in reaching the final eliminations.

An expansion of participation in this area came with the 1934-35 school year. In addition to entering the M.I.S.L. competition, Wayne entered a freshman extemporaneous speaker in the Phi Rho Pi Junior College Debate and Extemp Tournament which was held at North Central College in Grand Rapids. William Burch, captain of the freshman squad under coach Jack Kline, won first place in the extemporaneous speaking division.

Jack Kline and Mary Louise Schuck were extemporaneous speaking participants for Wayne in the M.I.S.L. Tournament held November 27th, 1934 at Michigan State College. Both of them were eliminated from the winning position in their respective divisions.

The first measure of statewide varsity success came with the 1935-36 academic year, as Esther Etkins won first place in the women's division of the M.I.S.L. tournament.

She spoke in the area of social security and its relation to employment insurance.⁹²

Paul Rickard was the University's entry in the men's division; he did not make the final competition.

For the second year in succession, a Wayne freshman extemporaneous speaker won first place at the Phi Rho Pi Junior College Tournament. Alphonso Rodriguez earned top honors competing against sophomores and freshmen from other colleges around the state of Michigan.

A state extemporaneous speaking championship was earned in November 24, 1936, as Paul Wyckoff won seven out of nine votes to win the M.I.S.L. state contest at Battle Creek. Sherman Willson was Wyckoff's coach.

That year also marked the third consecutive year that an extemp speaker from Wayne was victorious in the Phi Rho Pi tournament. Ray Hayes placed first in the extemporaneous speaking division of the tournament, which was held on April 2, 1937.

A little more than seven months after his freshman victory, Ray Hayes again swept first honors as he won the men's division of the M.I.S.L. state contest. This 1937-38 year was a complete success for the varsity extemporaneous speech activity at Wayne, because Florence Meyers,

⁹² The Detroit Collegian, December 5, 1935

competing in the women's division, also won the state championship.

The following year's extemporaneous speaking topics for the men concerned (1) national minorities and (2) United States economic and political isolation. Women's topics were concentrated in the areas of socialized medicine and the situations developing between the United States and Europe. William Burch and Elymera Stephens were winners in Wayne's elimination tryouts and represented the University at the state contest which was held at Western Michigan State Teacher's College on November 22, 1938. Burch achieved second place and won a silver medal. He lost out in a close decision to Tom Brock of Albion.⁹³ Miss Stephens also placed second in the women's division.

The 1939-40 school year was another victorious one for extemporaneous speakers, as Whitfield Connor was the men's state champion and Elenor Hayes captured second place in the women's division. All of the speeches in both divisions dealt with subjects on economics in the United States.

An innovation for extemporaneous speaking activities at Wayne came in the 1940-41 year with an extemp contest for men of the freshman class. Prizes of ten dollars for

⁹³ The Detroit Collegian, November 30, 1938, p. 3

first place and five dollars for second place were offered. Milt Gordon, president of the freshman class, was the winner; Donald Tomsen took the second prize.

Another state championship in extemp speaking came to the University that year as Valerie Saether won first place in the M.I.S.L. contest which was held at Wayne on November 27. Robert Clark also represented Wayne in the men's division but he did not make the finals of the contest.

An examination of the total record of extemporaneous speaking for Wayne University during this period reveals an impressive measure of success. In participation from 1933 to 1941, Wayne speakers achieved state championships in one or both divisions for five out of the either years. This was supported by freshman competition, which achieved three successive junior college state championships from 1934-37.

An interesting phenomenon regarding participants in this activity is that nearly all of them were outstanding debaters. Many of them won awards in debate as well as oratory. Although the fact of their participation is not surprising since many extemporaneous speaking contestants were also debaters, the achievement of excellence in all three areas by so many of them is outstanding. Extemporaneous speaking was not as predominant an activity as debate and oratory at Wayne University during this

period but if the same outstanding people, participating in all three activities, are an indication of a program's acceptance, the area was certainly not de-emphasized.

Other Public Address Activities

Students from Wayne University competed in two additional programs during this period, which should be considered as public address activities. Interscholastic Public Discussion and After Dinner Speaking were two separate divisions of participation in the annual Delta Sigma Rho Tournament which was held at Madison, Wisconsin. During eight years (1933-1941) of participation in this tournament Wayne students entered these events in addition to the debate and oratory sections. For the most part, they fared well in the competition.

The Discussion Contest emphasized extemporaneous speaking and the presentation of arguments and issues but stressed an informal, conversational manner of presenting one's viewpoints. Following are the rules for this contest as designated for the 1934-35 D.S.R. Tournament:

1. Each school competing in this event may enter as many as three speakers. Men and women are equally eligible. Fewer than three speakers may be entered if the institution so desires.
2. Each speaker takes a position on the topic in which he believes and supports it as best he can. It is not necessary that the speakers on a team agree. In fact, it may be possible for the

members of a team to have three distinctly different points of view.

3. Each discussion will be one hour in length. The six speakers will each have seven minutes in which to state his own beliefs and to advance arguments on the question. Following this, each speaker will have a second period of three minutes for refutation and a possible restatement of his own belief.
4. The speaking order will be determined by lot before the contest begins. Every effort will be made to keep the judges from knowing which school each speaker represents.
5. It is hoped that this contest will combine some of the virtues of the extempore speech with a more thorough analysis of the question than is usually found in such discussions.
6. Preliminary contests will be decided by one judge. For the semi-final and final contests three judges will be provided.

Judges will be given the following instructions:

It should be clearly understood that this is a discussion contest not a team debate. Each speaker has been instructed to take the position in which he believes, regardless of that taken by the other members of his team. Every effort will be made to keep you, as a judge, from knowing which school each speaker represents. The order of speaking was determined by lot just before this contest began.

You are asked to rank the speakers from first to sixth on the basis of their individual skill in argumentative speaking, noting especially their ability to adopt their arguments to those already advanced in the discussion. Give the one you regard the best a grade of 95, the poorest a grade of 70...fit the other four speakers into this scale.⁹⁴

⁹⁴ From the rules for the Delta Sigma Rho Debate and Discussion Tournament, March 29, and 30, 1935, as

In later years the rules for this discussion contest changed slightly. By 1939 the topic had been altered in form from a basic theme, such as "The Socialization of Medicine" (1935), to a general question of policy, like "What should be our national armament policy?" (1939). There were six specific sub-topic questions on the subject, organized into two areas, (a) understanding the problem and (b) suggested solutions: The 1939 contest offered the following:

A. Understanding the Problem

1. What is our present armament policy?
2. How does it compare with the policies of other leading nations?
3. What other factors in the international situation are pertinent to this problem?

B. Suggested Solutions

4. Should we adopt a policy of complete neutrality, with a reduced armament program?
5. Should our policy be to match the strength of any other nation?
6. Should we favor a plan of joint military and naval action with other nations?⁹⁵

distributed by Henry L. Eubank of the University of Wisconsin.

⁹⁵ From the Rules of the Delta Sigma Rho Debate-Discussion Tournament, March 24-25, 1939, as distributed by Henry L. Eubank of the University of Wisconsin.

Each of the six speakers drew one of these topics; speaking order followed the order of questions. This was a move to organize the discussion to follow a specific problem-to-solution procedure, deviating from the former "random speech" format.

Wayne University representatives gained distinction in this event. These students were also competitors in other forensic activities. Paul Rickard participated two years in a row in 1936 and 1937, placing second in the first year. Other Wayne students in public address activities during this period, people such as Ray Hayes and Paul Wyckoff, participated in discussion.

The University Speech Department gave public discussion added prestige as an activity through a program of inter-class discussion competition with trophies awarded to the winners in each class. Rules for the event were based on the Delta Sigma Rho contest but were modified to allow for a more conversational approach and to provide for lapses of time when no one volunteered to speak:

Each entrant shall be permitted a total of six minutes for discussion in each contest. The time may be used as the student wishes, but each time a contestant speaks will be counted as not less than one minute regardless of time actually used (with the exception of a 'Yes' or 'No' answer)...

If at any time there is no volunteer to speak, the chairman may designate the next speaker as he chooses. . . .⁹⁶

A prominent aspect of the first inter-class discussion contest held at Wayne in 1937 was the element of controversy among the student body caused by the topic: "Are Wayne Fraternities and Sororities beneficial to the student?" This was illustrated by an article in the school paper, depicting, in part, some of the viewpoints:

Behind the selection of this year's discussion tournament subject lies the story of battle and strife. This week another fraternity-sorority scrap was carried on. That fraternities and sororities are beneficial to college life was a seemingly innocent subject of the discussion tournament. Not to the Greek Letter Students, however, a polite uproar followed. To chairmen Ray Hayes, Jim Irwin and Gordon Mills went the headache...Sorority women Elenore Catz said "I think the subject is silly..."⁹⁷

Thus went the discussion on campus. It was an interesting way to promote public speaking activities and, obviously, it achieved more than a spark of interest.

After-Dinner speaking was not a competitive event in the sense that the other activities were. It was limited to those schools who participated in the Delta Sigma Rho tournament and there were no judges used. Each school

⁹⁶ From the rules for the interclass discussion contest 1936-37, as recorded in the personal files of Rupert L. Cortright.

⁹⁷ The Detroit Collegian, October 8, 1937

provided a speaker for the program following the banquet on the second day of the tournament. Each speaker was allowed seven minutes to talk on any subject of his choice and every effort was made to create the atmosphere of an actual after-dinner speaking situation. The participants were directed to present one of two types of speeches, one being to elicit the response of "How Interesting!"; the other to get the reaction "How funny!"⁹⁸

It was an interesting and entertaining activity. Jean Wylie was the first to represent Wayne in this event in 1935.

Summary

The thirteen years between 1928 and 1941 were a period in which student public address programs at Wayne University grew, developed and expanded with a strength that gave the institution a place of statewide and national prominence in speech activities. It was a time of generation; a single stage in the history of the Department of speech when debate, oratory and other activities began functioning as a separate entity under one administration and were fostered, encouraged and guided through progressive stages of increasing scope. Under the

⁹⁸ From the rules for the Delta Sigma Rho Discussion-Debate tournament, March 29-30, 1935, distributed by Henry L. Eubank of the University of Wisconsin.

competent direction of stalwarts such as Preston Scott, Rupert Cortright, Elizabeth Youngjohn and Sherman Willson, these activities became prominent in the overall function of a growing University, receiving much publicity and earning laurels for students in the programs.

CHAPTER V

THE WAR YEARS

1941 - 1945

The effects of World War II on student public address activities at Wayne University demand separate and special consideration. So drastically were the programs of debate, oratory and extemporaneous speaking, as well as others in speech, altered and modified as a result of the War, that it is necessary to examine the period from 1941 to 1945 as being one which differed from that of any other time. As David D. Henry, Executive Vice-President of the University wrote:

There is scarcely an activity at the institution which has not been touched in greater or lesser degree by the spirit of the hour. . .the immediate objective of the University is to furnish a steady stream of trained men and women to the armed services, to the professions, and to the technical fields of industry which so direly need their talents.⁹⁹

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the student public address activities at Wayne University as they existed during the years of World War II, from the fall semester of 1941 to the end of the school year in 1945.

⁹⁹ Quoted in Hanawalt, Leslie L., A Place of Light, Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1968, p. 251

The Initial Cutback

As the academic year emerged in the fall term of 1941, the speech department staff were optimistic about carrying on all activities as before even though a serious cut in the departmental budget had been made. An article in the school paper described the situation:

Despite a \$2,000.00 cut in the budget the University Speech Department will carry on its many activities this year with little or no alteration, according to Preston H. Scott, chairman of the department. Certain prize money such as had been used for oratory and interpretation contests will not be given this year. Dr. Scott is, however, endeavoring to get these prizes from outside sources. The department will continue to send representatives to the state and national oratory contest. The debate squads, both men and women, are undertaking the same schedule of tournaments they participated in last year; namely, the state tournament, the Madison Tournament and the Manchester, Indiana, Tournament.¹⁰⁰

Tryouts for oratory competitors and debate teams were scheduled, but it became apparent after the formal declaration of war that the facilities and resources of the speech department and its students could fill a much greater need. Therefore, after the first of the year in 1942, the department dropped all previous plans and changed its activities toward contribution in defense work and its related functions.

¹⁰⁰ The Detroit Collegian, September 26, 1941

Speech was one of the first departments of the University to replace its peacetime activities with a war-related program. Working in cooperation with Preston Scott, Rupert Cortright and others of the department, Walter McGraw, a graduate student in speech, created the Community Service Bureau. Its function was to provide speakers to political clubs and various civic and professional organizations. Starting out with a small nucleus of McGraw and our debaters, Sophia Adonowicz, George Menendez, Helen Serbay and Meyer Zeltzer, the Bureau soon found itself working twelve hours a day to fill the requests for its services. Soon a second group of four debaters was added: Bette Miesel, Dale Ikrie, Julie Starcevicz and John Wilson. Even this was not enough as the requests came from all over the city. By the end of the school year, the Bureau was functioning nearly as a full-time business. The school paper carried this story:

Women's clubs, labor unions, high school classes, fraternal organizations and Rotary clubs are just a small number of organizations that have requested speakers from the Wayne University Community Service Bureau.

Founded for the twofold purpose of continuing the training of students in speech and at the same time serving the community in the best way possible to help the national war effort, the Bureau has, since January of this year, sent 374 speakers to various organizations in and around Detroit.

Since an organization has but to call the Bureau and request a speaker on any topic the organization desires, the Bureau must be ready to supply that particular group with a person who is best qualified to speak on the subject. To this end it registered most of the students working in every phase of speech.¹⁰¹

As the 1942-43 school year began, the speech department faced an additional budget cut of more than \$4,000.00, one of the highest cutbacks among the several departments of the University. Yet, with the world at war, the department continued to seek opportunities for rendering services to the community. The activities of the Community Service Bureau continued and broadened. Volunteer work in the Bureau was directly connected with the office of Civilian Defense and membership steadily increased to include students majoring in speech, science, sociology, health education, home economics and other fields.

Cooperation in Bureau activities was extended from such organizations as the Detroit Workshop Civic Players, the Wayne University Student Stage and the Reader's Bureau, the music department and the Radio Guild. Betty Dworman had replaced Walter McGraw as manager of the Bureau, McGraw having taken a position on the staff of Michigan State College.

¹⁰¹ The Detroit Collegian, May 6, 1942

Meanwhile, members of the speech department staff sought additional avenues for student speaking experience. Through the efforts of Elizabeth Youngjohn, Wayne combined with six other colleges in and around the City of Detroit to form the Metropolitan Intercollegiate Speech League. In addition to Wayne, membership included the Detroit Institute of Technology, Highland Park Junior College, Lawrence Institute of Technology, Marygrove College, Mercy College and the University of Detroit. The League planned three areas of activities. First, a discussion activity which would center around the topic of President Roosevelt's seven points of economic stabilization was organized. The program was called "Seven Keys to Victory" and each of seven discussions was held on the various campuses of the member schools. Second, a limited debate program, organized by the University of Detroit, was conducted. The topic concerned the problem of post-war reorganization. Third, the League cooperated with the Detroit Police Department to emphasize a safety campaign. A program of individual speaking contests was held, the speeches being concerned with the topic of safety.

There were a few intercollegiate debates held on campus that year, including one between Wayne and New York University, which sent some debaters on a Midwestern tour

to meet several colleges and universities. The debate was held on December 8 at MacKenzie Union, on the proposition "Resolved: that the United Nations should establish a permanent federal union."

Oratory received two special incentives in the spring of 1943. First, the Hearst Newspapers promoted a national oratory contest on the subject "Thomas Jefferson, The Great American." The top prize was a \$1,000.00 war bond to the student who was judged as the national champion. The local contest was sponsored through the Detroit Times; a \$250.00 war bond was offered as first prize for the metropolitan champion in each of two divisions; senior college and junior college. Four students in each division were selected to compete in the Metropolitan Finals, which were held in the Mercy College Auditorium on April 1.¹⁰² Wayne representatives, Julia Starcevich in the senior group and Mrs. Viola Smith in the junior group, each placed second behind men from the Detroit Institute of Technology and the University of Detroit.¹⁰³

Another contest was sponsored through the generosity of Mr. Bernard Edelman, Wayne Alumnus and a prominent Detroit Real Estate Broker. Winners were offered bonds of

¹⁰² The Detroit Times, March 29, 1943

¹⁰³ From the personal files of Rupert L. Cortright, who coached the orators on this occasion.

\$75.00, \$50.00 and \$25.00 for first, second and third places. The contest was solely for Wayne students and Rupert Cortright directed it. Four finalists were selected at the preliminary contest to compete in the finals, which were held on May 11. The winners of the contest and Mr. Edelman's benevolence are perhaps best illustrated in a follow-up letter from Cortright to Mr. Edelman, dated May 17, 1943:

Dear Mr. Edelman:

First, let me formally express personally and on the behalf of the University our sincere gratefulness for all you did in behalf of the program last Thursday evening. All of us would have wishes for a much larger audience but the fates seemed unwilling to cooperate any toward that end. While our memories for specific details are still fresh, I hope we may talk the whole matter over and lay plans for an event for next year to be planned over a longer period of time. I have several suggestions.

Second, I have gathered the desired information concerning the names and addresses:

The \$75.00 bond should be made out in the name of Dorothy E. De Sha...

The \$50.00 bond should be made out in the name of Viola M. Smith...

The \$25.00 bond should be made out in the name of Irma Myers...

Miss Cecilia Arlselion...says that above all else she has always hoped sometime to be able to afford a subscription to FORTUNE, but she said she did not feel she should ask for so expensive a magazine. Because I was sure you felt with some of the rest of us that she was highly deserving I pass that word along to you,

although she would be more than happy with some other choice.

Gratefully yours,
Sincerely,
Rupert L. Cortright¹⁰⁴

Thus, while facing serious budget cuts, the Speech Department was able to provide student speaking experience through their own efforts and with the assistance of outside sources. By the end of the school year, 1943, more than 60 students received keys for participation in speech activities, which were presented at a reception on June 3.¹⁰⁵

Limited Expansion of Activities

The 1943-44 forensic year provided increased experience for the public address students who participated in intercollegiate activities. The most notable change in the debate program was the combining of men and women in debate teams. This concept was not new however. Since the beginning of the war men and women had been debating together as part of the Community Service Bureau and in certain intercollegiate competition in the Metropolitan Speech League, which Wayne helped to form in 1942.

A summary of forensic activities for the year was provided by Gilbert Rau, student debate manager, in letters

¹⁰⁴ From the personal files of Rupert L. Cortright

¹⁰⁵ The Detroit Collegian, June 4, 1943

to Dr. Preston Scott and to Dr. Kenneth G. Hance,
Secretary-Editor of the Gavel, a publication of Delta Sigma
Rho. Writing to Dr. Scott, Rau included the following
information:

"Dear Dr. Scott,

Here is a brief report of forensic activities for
this past school year. With the fine appreciative
coaching of Mrs. Youngjohn and the added excellent
help of Dr. Cortright AND yourself, we prepared with a
series of practice debates.

We began the debate season with twelve debaters
and ended with nine. (Robert Tucker and Lillian
Shreeman dropped debating early in February and Morris
Freedman entered law school at the U. of Michigan
following his graduation here in January). The squad
participated in a total of forty-six debates of which
thirty-four were non- decision and twelve were
decision debates.

We were host to three schools-N.Y.U., Albion
College, and the U. of Michigan. We made three trips
to Albion College and U. of Michigan for return
engagements, and to Michigan State College for the
State tournament. At the State Tournament our Wayne
teams won ten and lost two to place first. An
affirmative and a negative team, picked from the
squad, debated before the Caravan Shrine Club here in
the city; Mrs. Youngjohn was present and introduced
the debaters.

In discussion activity Wayne participated in the
Detroit Metropolitan Inter-Speech League. In the fall
semester Wayne speakers discussed with Detroit
Institute of Technology, Highland Park Jr. College,
and Mercy College the question 'How can we achieve
permanent Peace?' At the Michigan State
Intercollegiate Oratory Contest held in Lansing, Mary
Kramer placed second in the women's division and
Melvin Ravitz third in the men's division. Ruth Mohr
and Melvin Ravitz, who won the Wayne John Paul Jones

Oratory contest, represented the school for the Detroit area (were eliminated.).

Richard Shesgreen placed first in Detroit Intercollegiate competition in an extemporaneous contest on 'Traffic Safety' sponsored by the Detroit Lions Club.

Dr. Cortright announced that the following have been elected to membership in Wayne's chapter of Delta Sigma Rho: Patricia Chew, Judith Gleiber, Myrtle Keryluk, Leah Levitt, Marvin Peisner, Gilbert Rau, Sidney Smit and John Wilson (in the service). This in brief is Wayne's forensic activity for the past season.

I know, speaking for the entire squad, this has been an interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile debate season for us all. All the debaters had fun and all were amply rewarded, I'm sure. Speaking for myself, I can say all this and more.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Rau¹⁰⁶

Mrs. Elizabeth Youngjohn assumed the full duties of coaching the debate squad that year. In addition to arranging debates, setting schedules and working with students, she often was involved with the task of getting students excused from classes for debates with other institutions. Procedurally, Mrs. Youngjohn would give the students memorandums directed to their respective teachers, asking for permission to be excused from class. An illustration of possible problems this might cause can be

¹⁰⁶ From the personal files of Rupert L. Cortright written on May 10, 1944.

shown through examination of correspondence between Mrs. Youngjohn and Dr. Wilson McTeer of the Psychology Department:

On March 9, 1944, Mrs. Youngjohn sent the following memorandum:

SUBJECT: Excusing (a debater)¹⁰⁷ from Psychology 102
FROM: Elizabeth G. Youngjohn, Associate Professor
of Speech
TO: Dr. Wilson McTeer

The members of the debate squad are participating in a tournament with Albion College at Albion on Thursday, March 16. Since we have to leave at eight in the morning and cannot return before late afternoon, I regret that it will be necessary to take the debaters away from classes.

I would appreciate it if the student previously indicated could have your permission to be absent from your class in order to participate in the tournament. It is understood that all work missed will be carefully made up. It is my hope that the student can make plans in advance to cover the work that will be missed.

Dr. McTeer wrote back on March 14:

Mr. (debater) is now behind in his work in this class having had three absences already in connection with debate projects. Any further absences will jeopardize his chance of passing the course.¹⁰⁸

Mrs. Youngjohn was continually concerned about the academic work of her debaters. It is easy to believe that

¹⁰⁷ The debater's name has been purposely omitted by the author of this study.

¹⁰⁸ From the personal files of Elizabeth G. Youngjohn

her reaction to this situation was aimed in the direction of the debater rather than Dr. McTeer.

Mrs. Youngjohn was thorough as a debate coach. Details in preparation for debate trips were important to her, as evidenced by the following communications between herself and the Hunt Food Shop in East Lansing, Michigan.

February 8, 1944

Gentlemen

I expect to be in Lansing on Saturday, February 19, with some Wayne University debaters to attend the state debate tournament at Michigan State College. I would appreciate it if you could make thirteen reservations for me for luncheon for that date (Saturday, February 19) at eleven-forty-five, and thirteen reservations for dinner on that same day at six o'clock. Will you please let me know at your earliest convenience?

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth G. Youngjohn
Debate Coach

The response came two days later:

Dear Mrs. Youngjohn:

Labor conditions no longer allow us to give table service. We can take care of your group in the cafeteria at the time you designate.

Kindly verify the cafeteria reservation.

Very truly yours,
The Hunt Food Shop

(Mrs.) Katherine McL. Sheehan
Assistant Manager

Mrs. Youngjohn immediately confirmed:

Dear Mrs. McL. Sheehan:

Thank you for your prompt response to our letter asking about thirteen luncheon and dinner reservations on February 19. This is to verify the cafeteria reservation you mention. The thirteen people will wish luncheon at eleven-forty-five, and dinner at six o'clock.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth G. Youngjohn
Debate Coach"¹⁰⁹

As an administrator and as a coach she was meticulous, thorough, and energetic.

The forensic staff during the 1944-45 school year were Dr. Cortright, directing oratory and discussion programs, and Mrs. Youngjohn, coaching debate. Assisting in the debate program was Gilbert Rau, graduate student in speech.

The varsity squad debated the proposition "Resolved: That the Federal Government should enact legislation compelling the settlement of all labor disputes by arbitration when other methods of settlement have failed." The issues involved in this proposition have relevance to topics discussed in government classes, and Mrs. Youngjohn was able to secure the cooperation of faculty members, such as Professors Merril Case and others who taught classes in government, to have practice debates performed in front of

¹⁰⁹ From the personal files of Elizabeth G. Youngjohn

these classes. Moreover, Dr. Scott and Mrs. Youngjohn were able to arrange a schedule of debates between the University of Michigan debaters and those on the Wayne squad, taking place before American Government, Economics and Speech classes.¹¹⁰

The debate squad was quite successful during the year, placing first in the state tournament at East Lansing for the second consecutive year. Several non-decision public debates were completed, as well as a home-and-home series with the University of Michigan.

In oratory, Wayne students won second place in the men's division of the state tournament while placing third in the women's division.¹¹¹ Orators competed in the city wide collegiate oratory contest, sponsored by The Detroit Times. John Stuart, a junior majoring in education, and William Beaufait, a sophomore in the College of Liberal Arts, won first places in the senior and junior college divisions, each earning a \$50 war bond. In further competition John Stuart represented the University at the Midwestern regional contest, sponsored by Hearst Newspapers. He did not place in the finals.

¹¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹¹ From the annual report to the chairman of the department of speech, 1944-45

Speech awards were presented to fifty-five students who represented Wayne during the year.

An overall examination of student public address activities during the years 1941-1945 reveals that World War II had a marked effect on all programs. Budget cuts necessitated restrictions in travel; speech programs were channeled to assist in the defense program and the department undertook the task of rebuilding student participation in all areas of competition. Under the direction of Preston Scott, Rupert Cortright and Elizabeth Youngjohn the purpose was accomplished well. Wayne University altered its function to meet the needs of world war; the speech department demonstrated that it was equal to the task.

Summary

The beginning years of World War II brought an abrupt halt to competitive student public address activities at Wayne University. Programs were arranged to compensate for lack of finances, which included a Community Service Bureau to provide for the needs of students as well as members of the community. In spite of the difficulties, various programs were arranged in the later war years to include debate, discussion and oratory and Wayne University

students competed effectively against other colleges in the state of Michigan.

CHAPTER VI

THE POST-WAR DECADE

1946-1956

The termination of World War II brought about numerous changes in the programs at Wayne University. Monies for operation became available, as the University income steadily increased to more than double itself within the first five post-war years. Enrollment boomed with returning veterans. Campus buildings became overcrowded and temporary facilities were erected to compensate. There began a period of steady expansion which transcended beyond the growing student body to affect the faculty and staff, the curriculum and the entire campus. It started with an enlargement of the administration in 1945, as David D. Henry became Wayne's first full-time president. It ended ten years later, when Wayne University became Wayne State University, and another period of growth began which continues to the present day.¹¹²

The purpose of this chapter is to review and describe the student public address activities at Wayne University

¹¹² For a more complete discussion of Wayne University during the post-war period, see: Hanawalt, Leslie L. A Place of Light, Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1968

during the ten years following World War II, when Wayne University continued to operate under the Detroit Board of Education.

Return of a full program

As the 1945-46 school year began, the lifting of travel restrictions permitted the beginning of restoration to a full forensic program. Dr. Cortright was Director of Forensics and coach of oratory; Dr. Edgar E. Willis and Gilbert Rau were responsible for the debate program.

Students participated in more than forty intercollegiate debates during the year and were especially successful in the State Debate Tournament and in tournaments held in Indiana and Virginia. Wayne university hosted the State Oratory Contest for both men's and women's divisions and participated in the State Extemporaneous Speaking Contest. All state contests were conducted under the auspices of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League.

In most of the debates held by Wayne students the teams were integrated with men and women. Of particular distinction during the year was Wayne's outstanding record in tournament debating. Novice teams won first place at the Michigan State Normal College tournament held in April, 1946, at Ypsilanti. At the State Tournament held in East Lansing, Wayne varsity debaters finished in a three-way tie

with representatives from Albion and Hope Colleges.

Finally, at the Grand National Debate tournament held at Fredericksburg, Virginia, Wayne won eleven out of fourteen debates to tie for first place honors.

The success of debating in that first year after the war brought notable recognition to numbers of the squad. Toward the end of the school year, the following letter was sent to the debate team from the Wayne University Student Council:¹¹³

Dear members,

The Wayne University Student Council is pleased to extend congratulations to you on your excellent work as representatives of Wayne on the debating teams.

We wish you all success in your projects, and hope that you may receive many benefits from the experiences.

Sincerely,

WAYNE UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL
Dotty Comstock, President

In oratory, Wayne was host to seven colleges at the annual oratory contest for men and women, sponsored by the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League. J. Keith Graham, representing Wayne, took first place in the men's division with his speech entitled "Forever Dreams..."

¹¹³ From the personal files of Rupert L. Cortright: Dated May 16, 1946.

Fourteen colleges participated in the State Peace Contest on December 5, 1945 at Kalamazoo. Peggy Ann Thompson won first place for Wayne in the women's oratory division; John Bennett placed third for Wayne in men's oratory.

Cornel Francu and Marion Michalak represented the University in the annual Hearst Newspapers Oratory Contest. On the subject: "Thomas Jefferson, the Great American" each won a first place prize of fifty dollars, Mr. Francu in the junior division and Mr. Michalak in the senior division.

In all, the 1945-46 forensic season was marked with success for Wayne University. After a four-year lapse the public address activities started coming back toward full-scale measure of participation.

Administrative Change and Staff Additions

The 1946-47 school year emerged with several important and significant changes occurring within the Speech Department. Preston H. Scott, in response to requests from Wayne's administrators, had been working on several projects for the University, including state aid, community activities and industrial relationships. In addition, he was assuming the directorship of Visual Aids and Radio Education. The increasing demands of these

responsibilities detracted from Scott's duties as Speech Department chairman and, as the school year began, he approached the Executive Committee of the Department¹¹⁴ with the fact that there was a need for shifting of administrative responsibility. Scott further indicated that University officials wished him to remain Department Chairman but an administrator would be needed to take over major department duties.

The Executive Committee decided to elect an administrator by secret ballot. Three candidates were available for the position: Rupert Cortright, E. Ray Skinner, and Elizabeth Youngjohn. The vote was taken and Cortright was elected. Later in the year, the administrative changeover was made permanent; Rupert Cortright became the second Chairman of Wayne University's Department of Speech.

The second major change involved addition of new staff members. First, from Dartmouth College, came Dr. George V. Bohman, who previously taught speech at Dartmouth and at Dakota Wesleyan University. After completing his A.B. at Monmouth College, Bohman went on to graduate school at the

¹¹⁴ The Executive Committee of the Speech Department in 1946-47 included William Bilto (speech Clinic), Rupert Cortright, and Elizabeth Youngjohn (Public Address) Joseph Wetherby (Radio), Leonard Leone (Theatre) E. Ray Skinner (Oral Interpretation) and Preston Scott.

University of Wisconsin where he earned both the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. Specifically, he came to Wayne to head the graduate speech program and to teach general speech courses as well as a graduate course in the history of oratory. After assuming these duties, Bohman was called upon in March of his first year to serve as director of the speech and Hearing Clinics, replacing E. William Bilto who died on March 16, 1947.

Second, from Denver, Colorado, came George L. Hinds. Hinds had completed his A.B. and M.A. degrees in Denver where he also had gained extensive experience in public relations through the National Broadcasting Company. After coming to Detroit Hinds worked extensively in governmental research. He began his career at Wayne as an instructor in the English Department and also as an assistant debate coach. George Hinds was a substantial addition to the Speech Department. He would move forward to prominence in the field of public address, particularly in the field of group dynamics, bringing added influence to departmental academic and speech activities.

Third, James A. McMonagle joined the staff as Director of Forensics. McMonagle came to Wayne at the beginning of the second semester, replacing Gordon Mills, who transferred to another position in California. "Mr. Mac,"

as the debaters liked to call him, had an extensive background in Michigan forensics, including high school teaching at Flint Northern High School, and college experience at Michigan State College and the University of Michigan. He brought vitality to Wayne public address activities, creating an energy that sparked a growth in student participation.¹¹⁵ He began a career in speech pedagogy which earned him many laurels over the years, including a lifetime membership in the Michigan speech Association.

Continuing Growth of the Program

During the 1946-47 forensic season, Wayne speakers competed in debate, oratory and extemporaneous speaking with 173 major colleges and universities all over the United States.

Twenty-eight debaters participated in a total of one hundred twenty-two debates, winning seventy-four, losing forty, tying one and competing in seven non-decision contests. Highlighting the season was a first place victory in the M.I.S.L. State Tournament.

¹¹⁵ McMonagle's energetic influence is depicted in a departmental newsletter which described activities in all areas of the Speech Department. It was edited in 1946-47 by Gilbert Rau and Paul Dutton

In oratory, Seymour Tuchow won first place in the men's division of the state tournament and went on to place third in the national contest. John Wilson, representing Wayne in the State Peace Oratory Contest, placed second in the state. In the annual Hearst Newspapers oratory contest, John Stuart won first place in the senior division and Robert Starring went on to win the Detroit City contest; he placed second in the national finals.

In extemporaneous speaking Wayne students entered three contests, the state M.I.S.L. Tournament, the State Peace Contest. None of the Wayne competitors was a first place winner but the students placed third in the M.I.S.L. Tournament and second in the other two contests.¹¹⁶

The annual forensic report for the year 1946-47 stipulated two basic aims for speech activities: (1) public relations for the university and (2) specialized speech training for students. Although these were by no means new concepts for Wayne University public address programs, they represented a desire to resume a full-scale program—one that would realize these goals to their fullest.

An expansion of speech activities during the 1947-48 school year occurred with the revival of the Student

¹¹⁶ Information regarding wins and losses is taken from the final departmental newsletter, edited by Paul Dutton and Gilbert Rau, May, 1947.

Speaker's Bureau. John T. Wilson, a graduate student in speech, was director of the Bureau which performed services in much the same way as in previous years, arranging for speakers to visit schools, youth groups, churches and women's clubs. Complete reorganization of files, forms and functional arrangement was needed, in addition to compilation of a list of active and available speakers. During the year twenty-two speakers were sent out by the Bureau to engage in a total of fifty-eight appearances.¹¹⁷

Fifty-four students represented Wayne in debate during the 1947-48 season. The debaters were divided into three squads for men, women and freshmen. Out of a total of one hundred ninety-eight debates, Wayne finished the season with eighty-seven debates won, fifty-six lost and fifty-five non-decision contests. Highlights of the season came with a first place victory in the women's division of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League state debate tournament and a tie for first place in the men's division of the Grand National Debate Tournament held at the University of Virginia in Fredericksburg.

¹¹⁷ Information regarding total speaking engagements and the number of participants is taken from the Wayne speech News, Volume II, No. 6, 1948, a departmental newsletter edited by Maryanna Pearse and Paul Dutton.

Wayne orators competed in a total of seventeen oratory contests, including preliminary and final contests of the M.I.S.L. and the Interstate Oratorical Association. State championships were gained in the women's division of the Peace Oratory Contest and in the men's division of the M.I.S.L. Oratory Contest. First place victory was also attained in the annual Traffic Safety Contest and the Civic Oratory Contest. In all, out of seventeen contests Wayne received eight first places, three second places, four third places, one fourth, and one fifth place.

Students representing Wayne also participated in extemporaneous speaking, involving themselves in state-wide competition through the Peace Extempore Contest and the M.I.S.L. Tournament.

Discussion competition involved Wayne students in a festival sponsored by the M.I.S.L. Several received excellent and superior ratings. In addition, Wayne University sent eight delegates to a student congress called the "Ohio State Conference on Public Affairs." One of the Wayne students was elected to the position of majority party floor leader.

Approximately one percent of the entire Wayne University student body received awards at the annual Speech Department Honors Program and Reception, held on May

25, 1948.¹¹⁸ This represented an achievement of expansion and enrichment of the speech programs, which demonstrated successful compensation for the war years and their accompanying diminution.

Debating during the 1948-49 season was not as extensive as in the previous year, as fewer debaters competed in few debates. Out of one hundred seventy total contests, Wayne students won ninety-three, lost fifty-six, and competed in twenty-one non-decision events. Forty debaters participated in the program. Most successful of the debate encounters was Wayne's victory in the Indiana State Debate Tournament held at Terre Haute, Indiana. Wayne placed first with ten wins and two losses.

Noteworthy attention that year was given to one Wayne debater, a pre-law student named John Katsoulos. As a senior in high school, John has debated in the program of the Michigan High School Forensic Association and had been successful enough to win several honors, including the first John S. Knight College Scholarship Award offered by

¹¹⁸ This percentage figure is based on the total number of students receiving awards - 170 - and the total enrollment in the University as of the first semester, 1947-48, - 17,358 - as noted in Hanawalt, Leslie L. A Place of Light, op. cit., p. 360

The Detroit Free Press.¹¹⁹ As a first year Wayne debater John was featured in a special, three-page pictorial article in a Sunday supplement of the Free Press. Pictured with him in the article were James McMonagle, Director of Forensics, and George Hinds, Wayne's debate coach.¹²⁰

Raymond S. Beard was added to the debate coaching staff that year. His duty was to coach debate and serve as an instructor in speech. Serving in this capacity, he accompanied the teams to several tournaments.

An added specialty to the debate program was a return of the international debate program. On March 22, 1949, Fred Lifton and Robert Briskey, representing Wayne, met in a debate with Percy Cradock and Dunan Macrae of Cambridge University, England. The teams debated the proposition "Resolved: That the world would have been much happier had not the American Revolutionaries left the British Empire." This was Wayne's first international debate encounter since 1937. It was held before an audience in the Cass Technical High School Auditorium. There was no decision.

¹¹⁹ The Detroit Free Press has annually awarded college scholarships in the name of its founder and Editorial Director, John S. Knight, since 1947. The scholarship is earned through a contest for debaters participating in the program of the Michigan High School Forensic Association, which is coordinated under the auspices of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

¹²⁰ The Detroit Free Press, March 20, 1949

In oratory and extemporaneous speaking Wayne participants were again successful, participating in twenty-three intercollegiate contests and winning twelve first places, five second and four third places. Oratory victories included state championships in the men's and women's divisions of the M.I.S.L. Oratory Contest, first places in the senior division of the Hearst (Detroit Times) Oratory Contest, the Detroit Traffic Safety Oratory Contest. In extemporaneous speaking, Fred Lifton was first place honors in the men's state M.I.S.L. Contest and Duane Day won the Indiana State Extempore Speaking Contest.

Rita Hoban directed the Wayne University Speaker's Bureau that year.

As the 1949-50 forensic season began, the roster of Speech Department staff who were directly responsible for public address activities under Chairman Rupert Cortright were: James McMonagle, Director of Forensics; Raymond Beard, men's debate coach; Robert D. Weiss, women's debate coach; George Menendez, oratory; and Gail Tousey, extemporaneous speaking. Cortright was especially involved in forensic activities that year as a result of his being president of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League.

Duane Day was in charge of the speaker's Bureau. Promotion of the Bureau was handled chiefly through the

distribution of "flyers", single sheets of paper on which was an announcement of Bureau activities. A typical example follows:¹²¹

Dear Patron

Would you like something new for one of your programs, something different - something to spice up the ordinary?

We think we have it for you:

The Wayne University speakers Bureau can supply for you qualified speakers on a variety of subjects.

A particularly interesting type of program would be a debate following the courtroom cross-examination style. Other audiences have found this colorful style of debating entertaining as well as informative.

Let us hear from you, won't you?

Cordially,

Duane L. Day
Director

FORMED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY THAT SERVES THE
UNIVERSITY

The speaker's Bureau continued to function throughout the year.

Wayne teams debated the proposition "Resolved: That the United States should nationalize the basic non-agricultural industries." One of the more successful encounters was the men's division of the M.I.S.L. State

¹²¹ From the personal files of Rupert L. Cortright

Debate tournament. Winning twenty-one out of thirty debates, Wayne won the state championship.

In another debate, Wayne defeated the University of Western Ontario, Canada, in an international debate on the proposition "Resolved: That the international boundary between Canada and the United States be abolished."

Orators from the University distinguished themselves at the annual State Peace Contest, sponsored by the Knights of Pythias. Duane Day took first honors in the men's division, while Alicia Trybus placed second in the women's contest. Other major tournaments in which Wayne orators competed were the State M.I.S.L. Contest and the Delta Sigma Rho National Tournament, Madison, Wisconsin.

Top honors were also claimed in extemporaneous speaking, as James Spaulding from Wayne tied for first place in the M.I.S.L. state contest held at Ypsilanti. In the women's division of this contest, Wayne's Amelia Hoover placed second.

During the 1950-51 school year the Speakers Bureau was subjected to a thorough study by debater David Tyler and staff member Raymond Beard. As a result of this several alterations were made, including the establishment of a set of records, the organization of an efficient method of operation in assigning speakers and the improvement of

attitudes toward the Bureau among students involved with the program. Moreover, special recommendations were made for improvement. This affected a means whereby the Speakers Bureau could be evaluated as a program; the overall recommendations were favorable.¹²²

One of the important changes affecting the debate season during 1950-51 was the permission granted by the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League to allow men and women mixed teams in the state tournament, thereby combining the two programs that existed previously. This was brought about through recommendation by a special planning committee of the League, whose purpose was to review and recommend revisions of the total M.I.S.L. program. Representatives from Wayne on the committee were Raymond Beard, James McMonagie and Robert Weiss.

The proposition for debate was "Resolved: That the non-communist nations should form a new international organization." Wayne students placed second in the national "Buckeye" Tournament held at Kent, Ohio, and gained second honors in the state M.I.S.L. Contest. An innovation to the program was a tournament held at Wayne for junior college debaters from thirteen Midwestern

¹²² From a "Critique on Wayne Student Speakers Bureau," a paper submitted to Rupert Cortright by Beard and Tyler, May 17, 1951

colleges on April 21, 1951. This was the first time that the University hosted such a tournament for junior college debaters.

The coaching staff under Director of Forensics McMonagle during the 1951-52 season consisted of George L. Hinds, Assistant Director, and Raymond Beard, Marvin L. Esch and Amelia Hoover. Debating the proposition "Resolved: That the Federal Government should adopt a permanent program of price and wage controls." Students from Wayne competed most successfully in the annual Delta Sigma Rho Tournament, which was held at DePaul University. Wayne brought home the trophy for first place, emerging victorious over eight-four debaters from twenty universities.¹²³ Eugene Duston and Donald Goodman distinguished themselves at this event, winning all eight of their debates on the affirmative side.

Other tournaments in which Wayne debaters participated included the M.I.S.L. State Debate Tournament, the Purdue Novice Tournament, the Buckeye Debate Tournament at Kent State University, the Northwestern Tournament, and the West Point Qualifying Tournament at Ohio State University.

Wayne University speakers gained honors in oratory and extemporaneous speaking, particularly in the annual

¹²³ The Detroit Collegian, February 19, 1952, p. 3

Michigan Intercollegiate Peace Oratory and Extemporaneous Contest. Muriel Hunt and Robert E. Lee won first place in women's and men's oratory divisions: John Katsoulos placed first in extemporaneous speech. Students represented Wayne in other contests, including the M.I.S.L. State Oratory Contest and State Extempore Contest, the Hearst Oratory Contest, the Civic Oratory Contest and the Traffic Safety Oratory Contest. The highlight of the season came with a national championship, as Robert Lee went on to win first place in the National Peace Oratory Contest.

Marvin Esch was coach of debate and George L. Hinds coach of Oratory during the academic year 1952-53.

Debating activities included a "Mistletoe" debate tournament for the squad, which took place in State Hall on December 16. Essentially, the debate schedule was similar to that of the previous year.

First place victories were achieved in the State Peace Contest, which was held at Alma College. Marjorie Hunt won top prize in women's oratory; Robert E. Lee won the men's extemporaneous speech event.

In the annual Civic Oratory Contest David Carlson placed first representing Wayne with an oration about the problems of alcoholism.

The 1952-54-forensic year evolved with changes and innovations. Coaching debate was Merrill T. Baker, William E. Buys and Marvin L. Esch; directing oratory and extemporaneous speaking activities was George L. Hinds. In all activities, Wayne University engaged in a total of two hundred seventy-six engagements before a total audience of 16,490. Debaters won fifty-six out of one hundred nine decision contests. In oratory and extemporaneous speaking, students gained six first places, six second places, three third places and two fourth places; they won four championships out of a possible thirteen.¹²⁴

Wayne sponsored a two-day forensic conference that year. Participation was offered in debate, discussion and individual events. Representatives from eleven colleges and universities attended the event. The final event of the conference was a legislative assembly at which the students adopted a resolution: "that the United States should adopt a policy of free trade."

Wayne University held an international debate with representatives from universities in Bombay and Jaipur, India. Nearly nine-hundred people heard the debaters speak

¹²⁴ From the annual Forensic Report, 1953-54, submitted to Rupert L. Cortright by James A. McMonagle, Director of Forensics.

on the question: "Is Guaranteed Equality essential to successful democracy?"

A major innovation that year was the creation of the Wayne University Forensic Union. It was formed as an organization for students participating in Wayne's forensic program; its purpose was to "offer membership in a student organization to all who participate in the various activities and to help the forensic staff with the overall program."¹²⁵ Committees from the Forensic Union assisted with operations of the several on-campus events held during the 1953-54 season. This marked the genesis of an active society for all speech activities participants, supplementing the Delta Sigma Rho invitational fraternity. It was a group with which every participant could identify. It added strength to the program, giving it an essence of solidarity which exists, through this same organization, to the present day.

George V. Bohman assumed duties as coordinator of forensic activities during the 1954-55 academic year. This was only a one-year responsibility for Dr. Bohman. At the end of the year he became Chairman of the Department of Speech replacing Rupert Cortright who asked to be relieved

¹²⁵ From a memorandum to Rupert L. Cortright, written by Merrill T. Baker, dated May 14, 1954.

of this responsibility. Dr. Cortright would resume a full-time academic role in the Department.

Forty-four students debated for Wayne University that year, participating primarily in tournaments. The reason for shifting emphasis on travel to tournaments, as opposed to home-and-home travel, was financial. Dr. Baker, in reporting the year's forensic activities to Dr. Cortright, stated:

. . .it is clear that one gets the most for his money by participating in tournament debates. He also gets the least for his money in individual speaking events, for it is nearly as cheap to travel with several students as it is to travel with one.¹²⁶

In the community Wayne students participated in ten debates in front of a total audience of an estimated 2,750 people. Justification for audience debating was offered by Baker:

One must note...that Wayne's program has constantly attempted to maintain an adequate balance between tournament and audience debating as well as a balance among the various types of forensic activity, i.e., Extempore speaking, Oratory, Discussion and Debate.¹²⁷

Fourteen colleges and universities participated in the second annual Wayne University Forensic Contest, which was held on December 10 and 11. Contests were held in all

¹²⁶ From a report of forensic activities for 1954-55 by Merrill T. Baker, submitted to Rupert L. Cortright via George V. Bohman, May 5, 1955

¹²⁷ Ibid

forensic events. The debate proposition for the year was "Resolved: That the United States should extend diplomatic recognition to the Communist government of China." The discussion question was: "How can the American Educational system best meet the needs of our society?"

In oratory, Carl Wolf, with a speech entitled "160,000,000 Can Be Fooled" won the M.I.S.L. State Oratory Contest and went on to the finals of the Interstate Contest at Northwestern University. In addition, Wayne speakers took first and second places in several other oratory and extempore speaking events.¹²⁸

During the 1955-56 school year, the Wayne Forensic Program continued to include the traditional events in its schedule, including all activities of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League, the Purdue and Wisconsin tournaments and the annual Delta Sigma Rho Congress held at Depauw University in Indiana.

The Forensic Union became a recognized student organization that year.¹²⁹ Provision was made to elect officers in the spring for the following year, in order to insure continuity.

¹²⁸ Ibid

¹²⁹ From the annual forensic report, submitted by Merrill T. Baker and Marvin L. Esch to George V. Bohman, dated July 24, 1956

Successful participation was recorded in the individual events, with Wayne students participating in twelve events and earning three first places, six second places and three fourth places. All intercollegiate contests were held off-campus, except the M.I.S.L. Extemporaneous Speaking Contest, which Wayne hosted. An evaluation of the year was contained in Baker's final report to the Department Chairman:

The staff believes that this was a successful year. Particular note should be made of the large number of novice debaters who stayed with the program for the entire year. There should be a nucleus of between thirty-five and forty experienced people with whom to begin the 1956-57 academic year.¹³⁰

On this note of optimism the postwar decade was brought to an end. The "nucleus" of experienced debaters would go on to the beginning of a new era, as Wayne became a State University, leaving as history the story of its development under the Detroit Board of Education.

The essential feature of student public address activities during the ten years following the War was one of rebuilding the programs. Through the administrative leadership of Rupert Cortright and the efforts of hard working staff members such as James McMonagle, George Hinds and Raymond Beard, the debate, oratory, extemporaneous

¹³⁰ Ibid

speaking and discussion activities developed to a scope which compared favorably with that of pre-war days. Wayne University's Speech Department continued to foster its concept of community service, while building a program of activities with sufficient strength to nearly dominate the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League and establishing a reputation for excellence which gave prominence to the University in national speech events.

Summary

With the end of World War II there came a beginning of growth in scope and magnitude of the public address program at Wayne University. The lifting of travel restrictions made possible participation in out-of-state tournaments and national contests.

Under the departmental chairmanship of Rupert Cortright the activities were expanded, fostered and developed. Key faculty members were hired who gave their energies to rebuilding the programs, while continually striving for the goals of serving the community, as well as providing realistic training experiences in public speaking for the students involved.

As the postwar decade neared termination, steps were taken to insure continuity of an active program, including

establishment of the Wayne University Forensic Union, an organization for all student participants in speech activities.

APPENDIX A

Propositions debated: 1918-1956

The following list includes only those major propositions debated by Wayne University in intercollegiate competition with other schools. It does not contain practice debates, special occasions and singly scheduled events which utilized propositions specific to the circumstances. Furthermore, it is probably that debates were held where no record was kept of the proceedings or of the topic debated. This imposes further limitations which are unavoidable.

- 1918-19 Resolved: that the Philippines, after the war, be granted their independence and recognized as a sovereign power.
- 1918-20 No record available.
- 1920-21 No record available.
- 1921-22 Resolved: That the principle of the closed shop should be adopted in American Industry.
- 1922-23 No record available.
- 1923-24 Resolved: that the United States should enter the League of Nations.
- 1924-25 Resolved: That the United States should subsidize commercial aviation.
Resolved: That democracy is a mistaken ideal.
- 1926-27 Resolved: That an international convention be called to formulate a plan for international government.

Resolved: That we have more to fear, than to hope from science.

1927-28 Resolved: that capital punishment should be reestablished in the State of Michigan.

Resolved: That the direct primary system for the election of state and federal officials be discontinued .

Resolved: That the United States should not interfere in Latin America by armed force in defense of private investment except after formal declaration of war.

1928-29 Resolved: That hydro-electric power should be owned by the public.

1929-30 Resolved: That the United States should reduce her armament by fifty percent as soon as it is feasibly possible.

1930-31 Resolved: That Michigan require all automobile owners to carry public liability insurance of not less than \$5,000 for property and not less than \$10,000 for person.

Resolved: That the several states should enact legislation providing for compulsory unemployment insurance to which each employer shall contribute.

1931-32 Resolved: That the Federal Government enact legislation embodying the essential features of the Stuart Chase plan for the stabilization of business.

Resolved: That the United States should participate in the cancelling of all inter-governmental war debts, including reparation.

Resolved: That the United States should adopt a compulsory nationwide plan for the control of production and distribution in major basic industries.

- 1932-33 Resolved: That at least fifty percent of state and local income should be derived from sources other than tangible property.
- Resolved: That the general property tax in Michigan should be substantially replaced by other forms of revenue.
- Resolved: That a sales tax should be adopted in Michigan.
- Resolved: That an income tax should be adopted in Michigan.
- 1933-34 Resolved: That the federal government should make substantial grants-in-aid to the several states for public elementary and secondary education.
- Resolved: That the powers of the president of the United States should be substantially increased as a settled policy.
- Resolved: That this house favors the adoption of the essential features of the University of Chicago plan in higher education.
- Resolved: That the United States should adopt the essential features of the British System of Radio Control.
- 1934-35 Resolved: that the several governments should own and operate all plants manufacturing arms and munitions of war.
- Resolved: That the several nations should agree to prohibit the international shipment of arms and munitions.
- Resolved: That a policy of development toward collectivism under our present form of representative government should be permanently adopted in the United States.

Resolved: That all collective bargaining should be negotiated through non-company unions safe-guarded by law.

Resolved: That the abandonment of an isolationist policy is essential to American recovery.

1935-36 Resolved: That the Congress of the U.S. should be empowered to override by a two-thirds vote decisions of the Supreme Court declaring acts of Congress unconstitutional.

Resolved: That married women in industry should be replaced by individuals with no other means of support.

Resolved: That Roosevelt deserves reelection.

Resolved: That a written constitution is a hindrance rather than a safeguard to social progress.

1936-37 Resolved: That the federal government should own and operate all utilities.

Resolved: That all married women in industry should be replaced by unemployed single persons.

Resolved: That congress should be empowered to fix minimum wages and maximum hours for industry.

Resolved: That the extension of consumers cooperative would contribute to the public welfare.

Resolved: That the several states should adopt a unicameral legislature.

1937-38 Resolved: That isolation is impracticable in a modern world.

Resolved: that the National Labor Relations Board should be empowered to enforce arbitration of all industrial disputes.

Resolved: that the several states should adopt a unicameral system of state legislature.

Resolved: That the United States should cease to protect by force of arms the lives and properties of its national sin the event of foreign war.

- 1938-39 Resolved: That the United States should cease to use public funds, including credits, for the purpose of stimulating business.
- 1939-40 Resolved: That the United States should adopt a policy of strict military and economic isolation towards all nations outside the Western Hemisphere engaged in armed civil or international conflicts.
- 1940-41 Resolved: That the nations of the Western Hemisphere should enter into a permanent union.
- 1941-42 Debating cancelled.
- 1942-43 Resolved: That the United Nations should establish a permanent federal union.
- 1943-44 Resolved: That the United States should cooperative in establishing and maintaining an international police force on the defeat of the Axis.
- 1944-45 Resolved: That the Federal Government should enact legislation requiring the settlement of all industrial disputes by compulsory arbitration after all voluntary means for settlement have failed.
- 1945-46 Resolved: That the policy of the United States should be directed toward the

establishment of free trade among all the nations of the world.

- 1946-47 Resolved: That labor should be given a direct share in the management of industry.
- 1947-48 Resolved: That a Federal World Government should be established.
- 1948-49 Resolved: That the world would have been much happier had not the revolutionaries left the British Empire.
- Resolved: that the Federal Government should adopt a policy of equalizing educational opportunity in tax supported schools by means of federal grants.
- 1949-50 Resolved: That the United States should nationalize the basic non-agricultural industries.
- 1950-51 Resolved; that the non-communist nations should form a new international organization.
- 1951-52 Resolved: That the Federal Government should adopt a program of permanent price and wage control.
- 1952-53 Resolved: That the federal government should adopt a program of compulsory fair employment practices.
- 1953-54 Resolved: That the President of the United States should be elected by a direct vote of the people.
- Resolved: That the President of the United States should adopt a policy of free trade.
- 1954-55 Resolved: That the United States should initiate the policy of free trade with the friendly countries of the world.

Resolved: That the United States should extend diplomatic recognition to the Communist Government of China.

APPENDIX B
CHRONOLOGY OF IMPORTANT
EVENTS IN PUBLIC ADDRESS

1918-1956

- 1918 First Debate held between Detroit Junior College and the Detroit College of Law, March 29, 1918.
- 1921 Debating teams officially organized at Detroit Junior College under the auspices of the student council, February 11, 1921.
- 1924 Installation of Michigan Zeta chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, first national honorary society to grant a chapter to the college, April 12, 1924.
- 1925 First attempt to enter competitive oratory through entry in a national contest sponsored by the Better America Federation of California.
- 1926 First women's debate team to compete for College of the City of Detroit, April, 1926, against the University of Michigan.
- 1927 Arrival of Preston H. Scott as an Associate Professor of Public Speaking, September, 1927.
- 1928 Preston Scott becomes first chairman of the Department of Speech.
- 1928 Arrival of E. Ray Skinner as director of debate activities.
- 1930 Arrival of Rupert L. Cortright as instructor in speech.
- 1931 Arrival of Elizabeth G. Youngjohn as director of women's debate and oratory.
- 1932 Change in debate competition from three-person teams to two-person teams.
- 1933 Wayne University enters the Michigan Intercollegiate speech League.

- 1933 First participation I competitive extemporaneous speaking with other schools.
- 1933 First participation in competitive discussion, Delta Sigma Rho Tournament, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 1935 Sherman Willson appointed as director of men's and women's oratory.
- 1935 Division of Speech officially separated from the English Department as a separate entity under Preston H. Scott.
- 1937 Installation of the Wayne University Chapter of Delta Sigma Rho, May 1, 1937.
- 1937 Creation of the "Wayne University Student speaker's Bureau."
- 1941 Shift of emphasis in public address activities from competition with other schools to a Community Service Bureau, as an aid to the defense efforts in World War II.
- 1942 Wayne students entered in the Metropolitan Intercollegiate Speech League for competition with other Detroit area colleges.
- 1947 Rupert Cortright elected as Chairman of the Department of speech.
- 1947 Addition of George V. Bohman, George L. Hinds and James A. McMonagle to the staff of the Speech Department.
- 1948 Raymond S. Beard appointed as debate coach.
- 1955 Creation of the "Wayne University Forensic Union."
- 1955 George V. Bohman elected as Chairman of the Department of Speech.
- 1956 Wayne University Forensic Union officially recognized as a student organization by the University.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

James Robert Irwin was born in Detroit, Michigan on January 27, 1939, the second son of Frank E. Irwin and Dorothy S. Irwin. He attended Saint Mary of Redford School in Detroit from the first through the twelfth grade and graduated in June, 1957.

Mr. Irwin enrolled at Wayne State University in February, 1958 and completed his undergraduate training in August, 1962 with a B.A. in Clinical Psychology. One year later he completed post-degree training which led to a secondary school teaching certificate with a major in English and speech.

From 1963-65 Mr. Irwin taught English and speech at Harvey H. Lowrey High School in Dearborn, Michigan. During that time he also coached debate and forensic activities at Lowrey in addition to directing the school's theatre program.

In 1965 he joined the faculty of The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, serving as Lecturer in the Department of Speech, Consultant to the Bureau of School Services and State Manager of the Michigan High School Forensic Association. He remains in this position at the present time.

Mr. Irwin is married to the former Millicent Michalski of Detroit and has one daughter, Sherilyn Marie, age nine months.