18.   DEAN OF MEDICINE doffs to CHANCELLOR and says:

"MR. CHANCELLOR,

FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR
EARLE PAGE HAS BEEN A LEADING FIGURE IN PUBLIC LIFE IN
AUSTRALIA, DEVOTING HIS INTENSE ENERGY, HIS POLITICAL ACUMEN
AND HIS REMARKABLE FORESIGHT TO THE FURTHERANCE OF AUSTRALIA'S
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. AS A DOCTOR, HE
ACHIEVED A NATIONAL REPUTATION AT AN EARLY AGE. AT THE SAME
TIME, HIS CONVICTION OF THE GREAT POTENTIAL OF HIS NATIVE
NORTHERN RIVERS DISTRICT MOTIVATED HIS ENTRY INTO PUBLIC LIFE.

ON HIS RETURN FROM MILITARY SERVICE IN 1917, HE SACRIFICED
HIS CAREER AS SURGEON TO BECOME THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT FOR
THE COUNTRY PARTY, WHICH HE LED FOR ITS FIRST NINETEEN YEARS
FROM 1921. HIS POLITICAL SKILL AND FORESIGHT EARNED HIM THE
COMMONWEALTH TREASURY PORTFOLIO AS EARLY AS 1923. HE WAS
MINISTER FOR COMMERCE FOR SIX YEARS WITH ALSO BRIEF OFFICE AS
PRIME MINISTER. HE HAS BEEN MINISTER FOR HEALTH ON TWO
OCCASIONS AND, INDEED, TO MANY AUSTRALIANS HE IS BEST KNOWN
FOR HIS DEVOTION TO THE HUMANE TASK OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATION
TO PROVIDE FOR AN AMBITIOUS NATIONAL HEALTH SCHEME, THE
CONSPICUOUS SUCCESS OF WHICH REFLECTS SIR EARLE PAGE'S INTENSIVE
STUDY OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND HIS PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING.

IN 1955, AFTER THIRTY-FOUR STRENUOUS YEARS IN HIGH-RANKING
POLITICAL OFFICE, SIR EARLE WAS ENTICED BACK TO NORTHERN NEW
SOUTH WALES TO GUIDE THE DESTINIES OF AUSTRALIA'S NEWEST
UNIVERSITY. AS CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND,
AS ELDER STATESMAN, AS DOYEN OF HIS OWN COUNTRY PARTY, HE CAN
PLAN NEW DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE AND DIRECT THE TRAINING OF
THOSE WHO WILL BE QUALIFIED TO MAKE THEM A REALITY.

MR. CHANCELLOR, I PRESENT TO YOU THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
SIR EARLE CHRISTMAS GRAFTON PAGE, KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF ST.
MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE, PRIVY COUNCILLOR, COMPANION OF HONOUR,
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, FELLOW OF THE ROYAL
AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW ENGLAND, FOR ADMISSION TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE,
HONORIS CAUSA."