

**20 ANNIVERSARY
NYGÅRD INTERNATIONAL**

**P.J. NYGARD'S
SPEECH TO
GRADUATING CLASS
GLENLAWN COLLEGIATE
MAY 1969**

AND

**20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
FOR P.J. NYGARD
DECEMBER 1986**

“A 20- YEAR PROVEN PHILOSOPHY”

Mr. Chairman, graduates, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: Not long ago, I was a Glenlawn Collegiate Graduate. I was sitting where one of you is sitting now, keenly listening for what the speaker was going to say that would give me some guidance as to what I was going to do in the future.

I still have a very strong, clear and pleasant memory of playing basketball for the renowned Lions in this very auditorium. Walking in the long corridors of this collegiate with fellow companions and studying in Room 23 - third room - last seat. As a matter of fact, my then chemistry instructor then is now your Principal, Mr. Dasrinchuk. My sister's then geography teacher is now the vice-principal, Mr. Carstead. It is hard to believe that what seemed like yesterday was nine-years-ago. From this point on in your life, time will start running, and then galloping at an ever increasing pace. Years will fly by, every year will go faster than the year before and the next thing you know, one of you will be up here trying to convey some of your experience to a graduating class.

The first 18 to 20 years of your life were pre-determined for you. You lived at home, you ate with the family, you went to school and you spent the family money. There were not many major decisions to be made that would have long lasting effects on your future. However, you are now quickly approaching the GREAT CROSSROADS, when you must decide which way you will go to shape your OWN destiny - your OWN life. It makes sense,

therefore, that you should take time out for serious consideration now, while you have some element of control, to clearly explore every possibility to define your goal.

You must have a goal! You must decide what it is in life that you want and how you intend to get it. This is the most important step and I hope that I can contribute something towards your future in the next fifteen minutes.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are living in the best time in history. Every generation has a higher standard of living than the previous one, and has a greater opportunity to make for themselves a full and happy life. Not only are we living in the best of times, but we are living in the best country.

With my present job, I did considerable amounts of traveling through the U.S. and European countries, and even some in the Far East. After coming back from these trips, I realize just how great a country Canada really is! I am telling you all of this for a purpose, you see, **PEOPLE ARE IN CONSTANT STRUGGLE WITH TIME AND PLACE**. People always seem to have a feeling that they are either too young or too old to do certain things and they feel that there are better places to live.

There is nothing more pitiful than a person who wastes his time from one thing to another, forever looking for **THAT POT OF GOLD AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW** and never staying with one thing long enough to find it.

Remember, **WHILE WE ARE EYEING THAT OTHER FELLOW'S PASTURE, HE IS EYEING OURS**.

Along with the good, always comes some bad. In today's world, there is a tremendous rebellion against authority, the status quo, the establishment - especially by labour and students. This condition can be paralleled with the Roman Empire that once lived and fell - fell because it got spoiled in its own richness. We are seeing crippling strikes, one after another, and students taking over universities all over the world, rebelling against almost anything.

Would it not be wonderful if we could only channel this tremendous energy, this tremendous brainpower of our young people today into the right production areas. This becomes your own personal challenge, if you can channel your energies, abilities and time into one specific area constructively, you will be a success. It isn't hard because so few are really trying. Most people go to their graves with their best tune still in them...the most beautiful melodies in all the world and never played, simply because the average person has never learned to get them out. Our growing needs and will, will reward the uncommon person who seeks a place in that growth.

What then must you do to become a success in life?

Three things:

- 1. You must develop the right mental ATTITUDE.**
- 2. You must establish a GOAL AND PURPOSE.**
- 3. You must pay the PRICE.**

First, let us talk about attitude. For it is our attitude towards life which will determine life's attitude towards us. If we take the position that we cannot do some things, we generally will not do it. We shape our own lives and the shape of them will be determined by our attitude. William James of Harvard University said, "That the greatest discovery of my

generation is **THAT HUMAN BEINGS CAN ALTER THEIR LIVES BY ALTERING THEIR ATTITUDES OF MIND.**" What we receive in life or fail to receive is largely due to our own attitude. Isn't it wonderful that we have this measure of control?

But before we talk about our perception about the world, let us talk about our feelings towards ourselves. It is the attitude that we take towards ourselves which determines our attitude toward the world. Here we come to a fact – we are so familiar with ourselves that we tend to take ourselves for granted. We minimize our accomplishments, the goals that we can reach, and for some **EQUALLY** strange reason, we believe others can accomplish things in our field that we cannot. There are millions of people who lead sheltered and darkened lives because they live defensively -- they have failed to change their attitude! Many people are suspicious of change - yet change is one thing in life we can absolutely count on.

People who welcome change, realize that change means new opportunities and new advances for further fulfillment. They welcome change because they have taken the right attitude.

Attitude is a reflection. The result of a person's will: It is increasingly powerful if it is trained day to day. Whenever you find a person doing an outstanding job and obtaining results, you will find a person with the right mental attitude. You must believe in yourself!

Successful people always have a good attitude; they expect more good out of life than bad. They expect to succeed more than fail. You can always tell who's a successful person – they **RADIATE CONFIDENCE**; they **ACT SUCCESSFUL**; they **EXPECT** success; and they **GET** success.

Actions trigger feelings, just as feelings trigger actions. The world plays no favorites. It is very impersonal; it doesn't care if you change or not - it is up to you. If you develop the right attitude, you can successfully determine your environment and your goals in life. Your environment is really a mirror of your mental attitude.

The second point, you must be determined as to where you want your attitude to take you. In other words, you must **DEVELOP YOUR GOAL – YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE**. Your goal may be to become a lawyer, a dentist, a doctor, a secretary or a nurse, you may want a beautiful home, a new car, have a certain amount of money -numerous things. Develop both a long-term goal and a short-term goal. Make the long-term goal **BIG**, because it is the big goal that is really exciting, and we have to have excitement in life.

Make the long-term goal almost impossible because **ONE THING ABOUT THE IMPOSSIBLE IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH COMPETITION**.

When you establish a goal for yourself, you will feel a surging power pulling you towards it. A goal is a dream in the mind, felt only in the heart that is too big to be denied. Everything you see is a dream come true - a goal. Napoleon Hill said, **"WHAT THE MIND OF A MAN CAN CONCEIVE AND BELIEVE IT CAN ACHIEVE."**

Statistics prove that if you stop 100 people in the street in any city no matter what the population is, only five of out 100 can tell you what they are working towards. The other 95 are just drifting along hoping that something good will happen to them - or at least that nothing bad will. 95 out of 100 can be compared to ships without rudders drifting **AIMLESSLY WITHOUT A DESTINATION**.

When people are asked what their goal is, they answer in vague and unrealistic terms - happiness, good health or enough money to support my family - these are not goals. They are conditions desired by everyone. You must know what it is that you really want, or want

to be, and work towards it by progressively setting and achieving goals, one at a time. As Napoleon Hill put it, **"THERE IS NO ROAD TO SUCCESS BUT THROUGH A CLEAR STRONG PURPOSE."** Nothing can take its place. A purpose underlines character, culture, position attainment of every sort. Decide your goal – insist upon it. Force it into and keep it into your subconscious mind, see yourself as already having obtained it and it will become a habit - a habit that will lead from one success to another for this is the secret of success. You will become what you think about.

Once you have developed the right attitude and clearly defined your goal in life, you are on the road to success. Success has been defined as, **"THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF A WORTHY DEAL..."** You do not, however, necessarily have to be wealthy to achieve success, unless money is your goal.

Think about your goal every morning and every night.

Remember we are nothing more than a **SUM TOTAL OF OUR THOUGHTS.**

Now we have come to the third point - **PAYING THE PRICE.** This, in simple terms, means **WORK.** To this day, there is no better method of succeeding than to work hard. Success in life is not determined by being dealt a good hand, but by making the best of the hand we are dealt.

What are we given? What are our possessions in life? They are our mind, our abilities, our unique and individual talents, and **TIME.** These are our possessions and it is really an enormous amount of wealth. Let's plan to invest it in the most productive way everyday of our lives. You know- **PEOPLE DO NOT PLAN TO FAIL; THEY FAIL TO PLAN.**

In order to make the most of the opportunities in life we must prepare ourselves for them. Isn't it amazing how something wonderful always happens to that **LUCKY** person? The one who already has everything. And what is luck? **LUCK IS THE CROSSROAD OF OPPORTUNITY AND PREPARATION.** If you are not prepared, opportunity will only make you look ridiculous, preparation is the secret formula for luck - preparation means work - it means doing the simple things exceptionally well.

In any field that you undertake you must show value. You must contribute more than you earn. The onus is on you to show your worth and to put your effort forward - the reward will follow. The man who refuses to do more than he is paid for will **NEVER GET MORE** than he is paid! Don't find yourself in the position of sitting in front of a cold stove saying, "Give me heat and I will give you wood." Those who understand that the wood must be added first before they can expect warmth; contrasts those who feel they should get warmth whether they do anything about it or not.

You must be totally dedicated towards your goal. Think about anyone who has achieved a mark in sports, in social work, in business or anything at all and you will find them completely dedicated to their cause. They eat it, drink it - they practice it constantly. You must become a professional in your undertaking. You must practice it so well that you know more about it than anybody else, everything else must come second.

You don't have to be a genius to succeed but you do have to be dedicated. Remember, no horse gets anywhere until it is harnessed; steam or gas ever drives until it is confined; no Niagara has ever turned into light and power until it is tunneled; no life ever grows until it is focused, dedicated and disciplined. You must continue to learn and develop yourself.

It is interesting to note just how many adults stop learning. They fail to realize new opportunities and become the countless numbers who drift aimlessly like a ship without a rudder - without a purpose.

So, ladies and gentlemen, if you want to achieve success and a meaningful, happy life:

1. You must develop the right ATTITUDE, for without it you can go no further. Walter D. Scott said "Success or failure in any undertaking is caused more by MENTAL ATTITUDE than by MENTAL CAPABILITIES".

2. To achieve success you must establish GOALS - a purpose in life. A plan by which you will live because YOU WILL BECOME WHAT YOU IMAGINE YOURSELF TO BE.

3. To become a success, you must PAY THE PRICE – you must WORK, you must be totally DEDICATED. You must make PRODUCTIVE USE OF EVERY HOUR and every minute of your time that has been given to you.

Plant your seeds for achievement now. Remember that, "Ye sow, so shall ye reap." Our rewards in life will always match service; the investment of our wealth will determine our rate of return. This philosophy has been written time and again, and no matter how many times it is said, it still means that YOU ONLY GET OUT OF LIFE WHAT YOU PUT INTO IT.