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Speech

Brown University Medical School  
Commencement

Providence, Rhode Island  
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By

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In this archive, the user will find my 6 commencement addresses on "Ethical Imperatives For The Young Physician." Another series I did at a later date on the Hippocratic oath given in several medical schools. There is the only one other commencement speech in this archive besides the first one that I gave right after being appointed as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health at a time when I was very unpopular with the press resulting in a fairly hostile reception by the University of California at Irvine. This lecture to Brown is more or less the type of commencement address I was giving in 1990. I have mentioned else where in this archive that 1990 was the first spring that I was out of office and I turned down the offer of 30 honorary degrees that spring and gave just a modest number of commencement addresses. The day before this one I had spoken at Vassar College, my wife's school, where I apparently was the first commencement speaker that ever had courted a Vassar student successfully and married her.

Leaving the outdoor commencement at Vassar I stepped into an animal hole in the ground and sprained my ankle, which was a burden at Brown where it is the custom for the entire graduating class of the whole University to start on a march from the campus, early in the morning, with each graduate school making its way to a separate venue for it's own commencement exercises.