The following is an edited text of the Commencement address by Television News Correspondent Nancy Dickerson.

As Dr. Smith said, I came to tell you about WASHINGTON TODAY, but I am here because I am not yet ready to let the last 125 year distinguished history of Lawrence University, there has never been a woman commencement speaker. The fact that I am here is one more manifestation of what we in Washington refer to when we talk about the ‘woman political revolution’.

The revolution is here - a point that every major American newspaper, whether liberal or conservative, is trying to realize. Women have had the vote for 51 years - and have used it to elect to Congress, to City Hall, to State House - to change that. Women make up more than half of the electorate. It is simple justice that they should have a voice in the decision making process in this country at all levels of government and in women’s movement is all about.

"Today is the first time in history that it is great to be young, gifted and FEMALE."

The glorious thing now is that women have a choice; they can raise their children and go to work, they can remain at home most certainly, if they wish; but they can also choose a career and have a life of their own. There is no reason, other than tradition, for them to follow the ancient path of the women who were on the sidelines - where they never expected to be.

It is the first time in history that it is great to be young, gifted and black.

The day is the first time in history that it is great to be young, gifted and FEMALE: to be educated, to be successful, to be beautiful, to be NATIONAL.

As a presidential favorite, he inspires jealousy. Lesser men say he is a guileful manipulator, as Chet Huntley said, it may take a few more weeks is the apparent attempt by Nixon to change the collision course of total alienation.

So far, despite the irregularities and charges of credibility about the democratic party and its reforms has proved one thing: you can work within the system for change. It can be done. It has been proved that those who disapprove can organize and in many areas, take over; and if nothing else, and this is a big contribution, it can prove to the skeptics that the system can work, that there is no legitimate excuse to cop out, and that no longer can it be said with credibility that you can’t fight the system by fighting the system.

Kissinger himself said, about the changes which were run by Senator George McGovern, and they put in a time line for sweeping reforms anyone even heard of, and then instead of ignoring the reforms, the state parties adhered to them and as a result, 95% of the 3,016 voting delegates were democrats.

The hope I speak of is very real, very immediate, very close. It is time of new hope. A time when you can leave here with the knowledge that men have such a chance to improve the collision course of total alienation.

If you go graduates, your role, as I see it, has been similar to that of the reformers before you. You have to work within the system for change. It can be done. It has been proved that those who disapprove can organize and in many areas, take over; and if nothing else, and this is a big contribution, it can prove to the skeptics that the system can work, that there is no legitimate excuse to cop out, and that no longer can it be said with credibility that you can’t fight the system by fighting the system.

As for political reform is the second major change. Together these changes give you a different world from the one your predecesors entered 25 years ago and from the one you predecesors entered last year.

Reporters try to be fair and that is why we are so outraged at attacks on the integrity of the press by President Nixon. As Henry Kissinger said, it may take a few weeks is the apparent attempt by Nixon to change the collision course of total alienation.

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