

WELCOME TO MCGILL UNIVERSITY
SOUHAITS DE BIENVENUE À L'UNIVERSITÉ MCGILL

(August 26, 1971)

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRINCIPAL (ACADEMIC)
OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR MICHAEL K. OLIVER

It is my very pleasant duty to welcome you to McGill as participants in the VIIth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences.

We are receiving you, I realize, at a time when your deliberations are in full flight, for you have already spent three days at our French-language sister university, the Université de Montréal. But to savour Montreal fully, visitors must move from one side of the mountain to the other, and I hope that the contrast between the two will not induce cultural shock. If it seems to you that you are embarking on a brand new congress, so much the better: the change in environment will give you a taste, at least, of the linguistic and cultural dualism which marks this city, and the country as a whole.

Indeed, your presence here adds to the cultural assets of our bilingual city, and we are proud to have been chosen as the first non-European city to receive the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences. It is a tribute to Montreal, I believe, that as well as being the site for Expo '67 and the next Olympic Games, it can attract a considerable number of international conferences such as your own.

Your decision to meet here is also a tribute to the development of phonetic sciences — and more generally of the sciences of language — in Canada. During the last ten years, we have seen important new additions made to our university resources in your discipline, for the already flourishing centres at the Université de Montréal and the Université Laval have been joined by new groupings at McGill, Toronto, Ottawa, Alberta, and British Columbia, to name only a few. In short, there is hardly a province from Newfoundland to British Columbia that does not now have a research centre on problems of language.

Finally, I view your meetings with us as a tribute to the phoneticians and linguists of McGill, as they are also to the scholars of the Université de Montréal where you spent the last few days.

McGill is proud to act as your host for this remarkable inter-disciplinary congress which links together phoneticians with a linguistic background, communications engineers, acousticians, doctors, psychologists and specialists in speech disorders.

Reading your programme gave me an impression of great diversity, yet a diversity unified by a central theme: the human language. It is a programme distinguished by originality and a wealth of knowledge based on research findings and on the encounter of a fascinating mix of fundamental sciences. I suspect that you will be given more than a few glimpses into the rich and complex future of language studies.

Je vous remercie de contribuer par votre présence ici, à rehausser l'éclat de notre 150^e anniversaire. Nous célébrons en effet notre 'sesquicentennial anniversary'. 150 ans, c'est peu en regard de l'âge des vieilles universités d'Europe et d'Asie. Mais c'est un âge déjà considérable dans un pays jeune comme le nôtre.

Je suis heureux que cette rencontre internationale, réunissant des participants d'une trentaine de pays, coïncide avec une étape importante dans le développement de McGill.

J'espère que les deux jours et demi que vous passerez dans nos murs seront fructueux et agréables, et que, malgré le sérieux de vos discussions, il sera empreint de bonne humeur.

Vos assises se tiennent en effet dans un pavillon universitaire portant le nom du plus célèbre humoriste canadien: Stephen Leacock, qui fut pendant de longues années professeur d'économie à McGill. Que Leacock, savant et humoriste, vous inspire!

Soyez les bienvenus.