



Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

The Inaugural Charge

To be elected to Executive Office in the Y's Men Movement is an honour. It is a great honour. It is a greater honour than to be elected to office in many other organisations. It is a far greater honour than to be elected to many public offices. For, in such cases, the candidates seek their own election, and the office goes to the most successful vote-getter. In our movement, since the beginning, it has been the unwritten rule that the office should seek the candidate rather than the candidate the office.

Thus your election is evidence, not so much of your vote-getting ability, as of the confidence of your fellow Y's Men in your qualifications for office. And to qualify for office in our movement imposes a rigid test upon any person. Many qualities are demanded and expected of you by the fellow members whose votes have made you an officer. To enumerate them all should not be necessary, but we shall specify four, each commencing with the letter "I".

I D E A L I S M is the first. Your fellow members expect you at all times to exemplify the highest type of idealism, to display undeviating devotion to the purpose of the Y's Men Movement, to bear unswerving allegiance to our foster parent, The Young Men's Christian Association, in all its many phases of activity.

I N T E R E S T is the second. Among your various interests the welfare of the Y's Men Movement must rate first - not third, nor even second. Only thus can you fulfil your obligation to make ours a first-rate organisation. While it is important that the general membership place Y's Men first, it is absolutely imperative that every officer do so. To the extent that you allow other matters to relegate Y's Men to second or third place among your interests, Y's Men will become a second or third rate affair.

I N I T I A T I V E is the third. You are expected to exercise initiative. This means that you are to develop ideas and put them into operation; to formulate plans and execute them; to be the proponent and not merely the follower of suggestion; in short, to be always "starting something" ... and then carrying it through to a successful conclusion.

I N D U S T R Y is the fourth. You are expected to be industrious: in other words, to work. No task shall be too great nor any detail too trivial to engage your effort. Your fellow members expect you to work untiringly even to the point of sacrificing leisure, recreation, social and occasionally domestic and business affairs. It is by virtue of precisely this sort of indefatigable industry that our movement has reached its present high plane.

In electing you to office your fellow members have expressed their confidence that you possess these four, and many other, qualities and will exhibit them throughout your term of office. That is why your election is so high an honour. How infinitely higher will that honour be when, at the close of your term, you have justified that confidence.

The responsibilities of leadership can scarcely be overestimated. The progress of business, government and every sort of organisation, particularly of a voluntary idealistic movement such as ours, depends almost entirely upon the leadership. True, the leader cannot succeed alone. In our movement you must have the cooperation of every individual Y's Man. But this cooperation cannot be won by mere solicitation. It must be earned. And the surest way for you to earn it is by exhibiting the qualities of leadership we have just mentioned.

The trust reposed in you by your fellow Y's Men is a sacred one. The manner in which you discharge that trust will determine whether their cause will go forward or backward, whether it will gain or lose, perhaps even whether it will live or die.

Will you solemnly covenant with your fellow Y's Men that you will, to the utmost of your ability, exhibit these qualities, which your office demands of you, and conscientiously discharge the sacred trust reposed in you by your fellow Y's Men? If so, you will raise your right hand and answer in the affirmative.

May Divine Providence aid and guide you and give you wisdom and strength, well and faithfully to discharge your trust.

Date

Installing Officer

New Officer