

Remarks  
Alumni Day  
February 28, 1976

#### PYNE PRIZE REMARKS

Thank you, George. I am very pleased to be part of this splendid gathering today. And I am pleased now to have the opportunity to present the Pyne Honor Prize, which is awarded annually as the highest general distinction conferred upon an undergraduate. This prize was established in 1921 as a memorial to Moses Taylor Pyne of the Class of 1877, a devoted alumnus who did much in his lifetime to advance the best interests of Princeton. Since its founding, the prize has been awarded 51 times to those seniors who most clearly have manifested excellent scholarship and effective support of the best interests of the University. Those chosen over the years have served the University in a variety of ways, each individually leaving a special mark on Princeton and all, collectively, representing the combination of academic quality and service to the community that has long been an essential characteristic of Princeton.

In 1940, for the first time, the prize was divided to recognize more than one senior, with one of the two recipients that year being my distinguished predecessor, Bob Goheen. On seven other previous occasions, the prize has been presented to more than one senior, and this year again two winners have been chosen. I shall now ask them to come to the podium, in turn, as I tell you about them.

First, Sonia Sotomayor. Sonia is a resident of New York City, where she attended Cardinal Spellman High School. She has compiled an outstanding

academic record at Princeton -- having earned almost all A's her last two years. Her academic work has been described by her teachers as resourceful, critical, and original. She expects to attend law school after completing her work at Princeton.

Outside of the classroom, Sonia has served for three years on the student-faculty Discipline Committee which, in conjunction with the Dean of Student Affairs, is responsible for applying the University's regulations governing undergraduate conduct. This is an extremely important -- and generally thankless -- task; and it tests people. Of her service, a faculty member of the committee has written: "Sonia has been a very active and deeply concerned member ... who has never failed to raise searching and important issues ... I have valued her contribution more than that of any other student." Sonia also has made a special contribution to the quality of life on campus for minority students, providing strong and sensitive leadership as an administrative assistant and a member of the Governance Board and the Constitution Committee at the Third World Center, and as an organizer and, last year as head of, the Latino Student Organization. Nor has Sonia's commitment to other people and to causes larger than herself been restricted to the campus community. Beyond the campus, Sonia has worked as a volunteer at the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, serving as an interpreter for many patients.

In all of her activities she has demonstrated a maturity, a depth of understanding and a clear sense of responsibility, as well as an ability to make difficult judgments and to work effectively with people of all kinds.

These are qualities possessed by all too few people of any age, and we can have more than a little confidence that Sonia will continue to use them in the service of others and, in the process, to reflect great credit on Princeton as well as on herself.