

February 20, 1942

Mr. William L. Batt
Director, Materials Division
War Production Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill,

I know how busy you are and I know the paramount importance of the work you are doing, and because of this I hesitate to ask you if you would consider delivering the Commencement address at Bennington College on Saturday, June 13, 1942. I don't need to tell you how honored Bennington College would be by your acceptance of this assignment. The only hesitation I have in asking you to do this is that it would take time out from your very important official duties. The Commencement address at Bennington College, however, might be the opportunity for saying some things of great importance to a very influential audience.

Our Commencement address is somewhat different from that of most colleges in that it is not connected with the actual ceremony of the granting of degrees. It is held at eleven o'clock in the morning in the College theatre, and the degree-conferring ceremony does not take place until four o'clock in the afternoon.

Please let me know at your convenience whether you can accept this invitation. In the meantime, I send the highest personal regards to you and the rest of your family.

Sincerely yours,

Lewis Webster Jones
President

LWJ