

CLOSING REMARKS

BLEKSLEY: I think I'm going to stop the discussion at this point. We owe it to the people who are going to wind this up to give them a little time, and so we now come to the closing remarks, and I'm going to ask Allan Angoff to start the ball rolling.

ANGOFF: I'll be very brief. Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Garrett, Dr. Margenau (our coordinator), ladies and gentlemen—I'm tempted to say that in a few moments our revels shall be ended; our revels of the past three days, and perhaps I shall use that good Elizabethan, that good Shakespearean word, for despite the serious deliberations in this room by distinguished men and women from around the world, we have kept it all on a level of good manners and abiding humor which has, we hope, made this something more penetrating and more exciting than so many of the academic meetings so many of you know so well.

We of the Foundation staff—Mrs. Garrett, Mrs. Coly, and Mr. Andoire, the gentleman who has made you all so very comfortable around here—we, who for many months planned this Conference, are quite pleased. You have cooperated with all of us and we are grateful to all of you for coming this long distance.

All of us on the Foundation staff have had, as you know, considerable experience with scholars and writers and creative folk, and without going into all that, let me say that, even though the group in this room has been kept to a modest size, deliberately, we can say that never have so many creative people worked together and lived together so long and so harmoniously. That, I think, is the miracle of this Conference.

I hope you will permit me to say that Mrs. Garrett, our hostess, long a miracle worker, is surely responsible for this latest miracle here in the hills of southern France. So let me say again for the entire Foundation staff, thanks to all of you. And now I'll turn the meeting back to Arthur Bleksley and the other speakers.

BLEKSLEY: And now the most difficult task of this meeting. Henry

Margenau, will you say your concluding remarks? Tell us what we've been going about.

MARGENAU: Mrs. Garrett, Mr. Chairman—I've long deliberated my task and I've concluded *not* to attempt a summary of the proceedings. I shall be very brief. In fact, I don't know why I alone should be accorded the privilege of a closing remark. In offering it, I shall give voice to two urges: One arises, I suppose, telepathically, coming to me from the minds of this group. It's the desire to express cordial thanks first of all, to our gracious hostess, Mrs. Garrett, for her magnificent hospitality. Then to Mrs. Coly, Mr. Angoff, Mr. Andoire, for providing these most comfortable and efficient arrangements. And the other urge surely has nothing to do with psi. It's the need, I feel, to thank all of you for the contributions you have made to my thinking. Thank you.

BLEKSLEY: Mrs. Garrett, will you say something?

EILEEN GARRETT: I don't like to say goodbye. I think you've all been extremely good. I've enjoyed listening to you. I thank you one and all for having made it an extremely important moment of moments in my life. I wish we were only beginning again. But maybe next year, I will have the pleasure of meeting some of you who will have the curiosity to return.

BLEKSLEY: Ladies and gentlemen, I feel that this is the one privilege of having been chosen by chance as chairman of this particular meeting, that I too can add a few words of thanks. Mrs. Garrett has embarrassed us by thanking us. Henry Margenau has thanked her and Allan Angoff and Mrs. Coly and the staff of the Foundation, but may I add my thanks to his. I don't think it's enough, Mrs. Garrett, that just one of us thanks you formally.

We have come together here to talk with each other and to clear our own minds of the kind of obscurities which arise when one does one's own thinking. It seems to me a very happy thing that not only have we been given the opportunity of meeting each other and talking in this room, but some of the most effective discussions, if I may say so, took place under circumstances which are not normally regarded as being academic. On the other hand, one must remember that originally a symposium was a drinking together. This has been a jolly good symposium. I do feel that we are all grateful to the Foundation and its leaders and its staff for providing us with this kind of opportunity. It's the sort of thing that doesn't happen very often in the lives of most of us, to have this meeting take place in the circumstances that we have here, the charm of the surroundings.

This has been a magnificent conference which I'm sure every single one of us has enjoyed not only as an exercise on the mental side, but as an exercise on a number of other levels as well, and we are all utterly grateful to those good people who have given us this opportunity, and we all wish to thank them.