

raising the economic standard of underdeveloped countries. And no less important: they offer these countries the possibility to contribute to the building of their future and to become true partners in the multinational efforts of cooperation. The Free University greatly values the share of Dr. Hoffman in the economic betterment of underdeveloped areas; also because it is directed to the establishment of a worldwide society meeting biblical norms, which is of great concern to her as a christian university.

For these reasons the Senate gladly granted Dr. Hoffman the doctorate in economics, honoris causa.

Promotie Dr. Martin Luther King

Toespraak promotor (prof. dr. G. Kuiper Hzn.)

Dr. King,

The Free University confers upon you this honorary degree on grounds both wide and narrow. The narrow context concerns the great work that you are doing in the United States for the large group of people who are underdogs in a society, which as a whole enjoys great prosperity; for which democracy is a high value and which in principle desires equality of justice, of opportunity and of freedom for all – already for more than a 100 years – yet withholds this in practice from those whose skin is black. We are witness to the heavy battle which is waged to give them an equal place under the sun. For the sake of freedom and democracy bitter wars were carried on. In Europe we have again realized these values – also through the effort of the United States – at the cost of many millions of victims and in Asia and Africa there were wars of freedom for those under colonial rule. Time and again there were flows of costly human blood and the anxiety of ethical questions forces itself on us.

Therefore we have a deep respect for the manner in which you lead your suppressed racial-fellows in the battle for a new society: not a bloody revolution but a revolution without violence, which heaps coals of fire on the heads of those

who commit injustice. It did not escape our attention that this is a most effective manner of battle, which has nothing to do with softness. It testifies of sharp insight in human relations: perhaps nowhere as good a school for the sociology of policy can be found as the observation of your battle, which uses the knowledge of social structures, of the possibilities under the law, of the value of public relations, of the anticipation of human conduct, of the manner in which the morale and self-respect of the group are strengthened, and of the effect wrought by placing spiritual nobility over against physical force; in which the locations for action were carefully chosen: your insight that tokenism was a track on which the revolution ran dead. For these reasons the university grants you this honorary degree in the social sciences: you are working at the coming of a great social revolution.

But there is also a wider ground on which you are granted this honor precisely by the Free University. The latter pretends to be led by the gospel of Jesus Christ in its scientific activity and policy and therefore is the last one that can afford to be blind for the oceans of personal sorrow and social misery and for the lack of justice, wherever these are present and become the plight of fellowman. Woe to the Free University if it should not open its eyes. But when we wage battle against it with means unviolent, expressly based by you on the faith in the Saviour of the world, who did not threaten when he suffered and did not scold when scolded; in that case we want to let you know by means of this honorary degree how we also recognize the way of Christ in these methods.

Dr. King, you give leadership to a social revolution in a very concrete situation, in a manner filling the christian with joy and the sociologist and political scientist with respect. This would be sufficient already for giving you this honorary degree. But the significance of your work transcends this and therefore I spoke of wider grounds. It gives courage to all who are suppressed for being a minority, deviating in the colour of their skin, in their faith or otherwise. They are all aching for a position in which they shall no longer be disdained, kicked or beaten, or threatened economically in their livelihood and psychically in their personality. They are dreaming of a reality, in which they shall no longer be judged

according to the false picture one has of them, in which their antagonists have projected their own dark desires; of a reality in which they are judged and treated on the ground of their character in a society in which justice rules.

You have written books about your battle such as lately „Why we can't wait". In it you defend yourself against your white fellow-ministers who criticized you. There is a warning in it for all of us: how easy we, with our craving for distinction, can murder everything humane and so damage God's image and transgress the christian commandment of love. We do not give you this honorary degree out of selfsatisfaction or the self assured conviction that in the Netherlands there is no social hatred, no anti-semitism, no anti-papism on a large scale. These are, latently, present here also and our treatment of, for example, the many foreign laborours will be a testcase which contains a challenge, forcing us to pray that we who believe to be standing shall not fall.

Toespraak van Z.K.H. de Prins der Nederlanden bij de uitreiking van ere-doctoraten o.a. aan hem in de economische wetenschappen aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam, in het Concertgebouw op woensdag 20 oktober 1965.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor of the Free University,

It is a great honour and a privilege for me to be allowed to address a word of thanks to the very learned men of the Senate of your University, on behalf of all those who have received today an honorary degree of your institution which is so rightly famous in the Netherlands and abroad for the high level of its teaching, the depth of its scientific research, the value of the principles it stands for.

On behalf of Professor Ellul I want to thank in particular his promotor Professor Gerbrandy, whereas Dr. Jonckheer desires to express his sincere thanks to professor De Gaay Fortman and Doctor Rijnsdorp to Professor Kuiper. This gratitude is shared by Dr. Hoffman towards Professor Wieringa, and in no lesser degree by Dr. King towards another Professor Kuiper. Finally, I should like to sincerely thank