



COMMENCEMENT '66

Nearly 2,000 receive degrees at Memorial Stadium exercises as Dr. Elmer Ellis officiates at spring ceremonies for last time as the University's president.

CALLING THE WEATHERMAN'S BLUFF, the University carried out its 124th annual Commencement exercises as planned, in the outdoors at Memorial Stadium, on a rainy June 7th. Looking on was a gathering estimated at between ten and fifteen thousand persons. Rain had fallen heavily earlier in the afternoon. The alternative was to jam into Brewer Field House, where about a third of the crowd could have been seated.

Degrees were awarded to 1,985 current graduates at ceremonies presided over by Chancellor John W. Schwada. A standing ovation was given to Dr. Elmer Ellis, who will retire at the end of August as president of the University, and upon whom the title of president emeritus and professor of history was given by the president of the University's Board of Curators, Robert Neill of St. Louis.

In officiating at his last June Commencement as president, Dr. Ellis conferred honorary degrees upon four distinguished graduates and former students of the University (see page 14). One of the recipients, James A. Finch, Jr., Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court, was the Commencement speaker.

In his address, the former president of the Board of Curators predicted that enrollment at the state institutions of higher education in Missouri will at least double in the next ten to fifteen years. He reviewed the rapid expansion of the University after it became a four-campus system and cited the growing need for support of additional facilities.

"The need for providing proper facilities for higher education for those capable of absorbing it is as great now as was the need for primary and secondary education when we established in this country the concept of free public schools," Justice Finch said. "We are told that the extent of discovered knowledge has dou-

bled in the last two or three decades and will continue to increase at perhaps an accelerated rate. This being the case, it is easy to see that a nation or state which neglects higher education simply cannot expect to keep pace. The importance of a college education for the young people of our state increases year by year." He said the State of Missouri and its agencies, as well as municipalities in the state, are working to attract research facilities, industries and businesses to advance the state and improve its economy.

"If Missouri is to be successful in this effort, the state must have its share of highly educated, well-trained people," Justice Finch said.

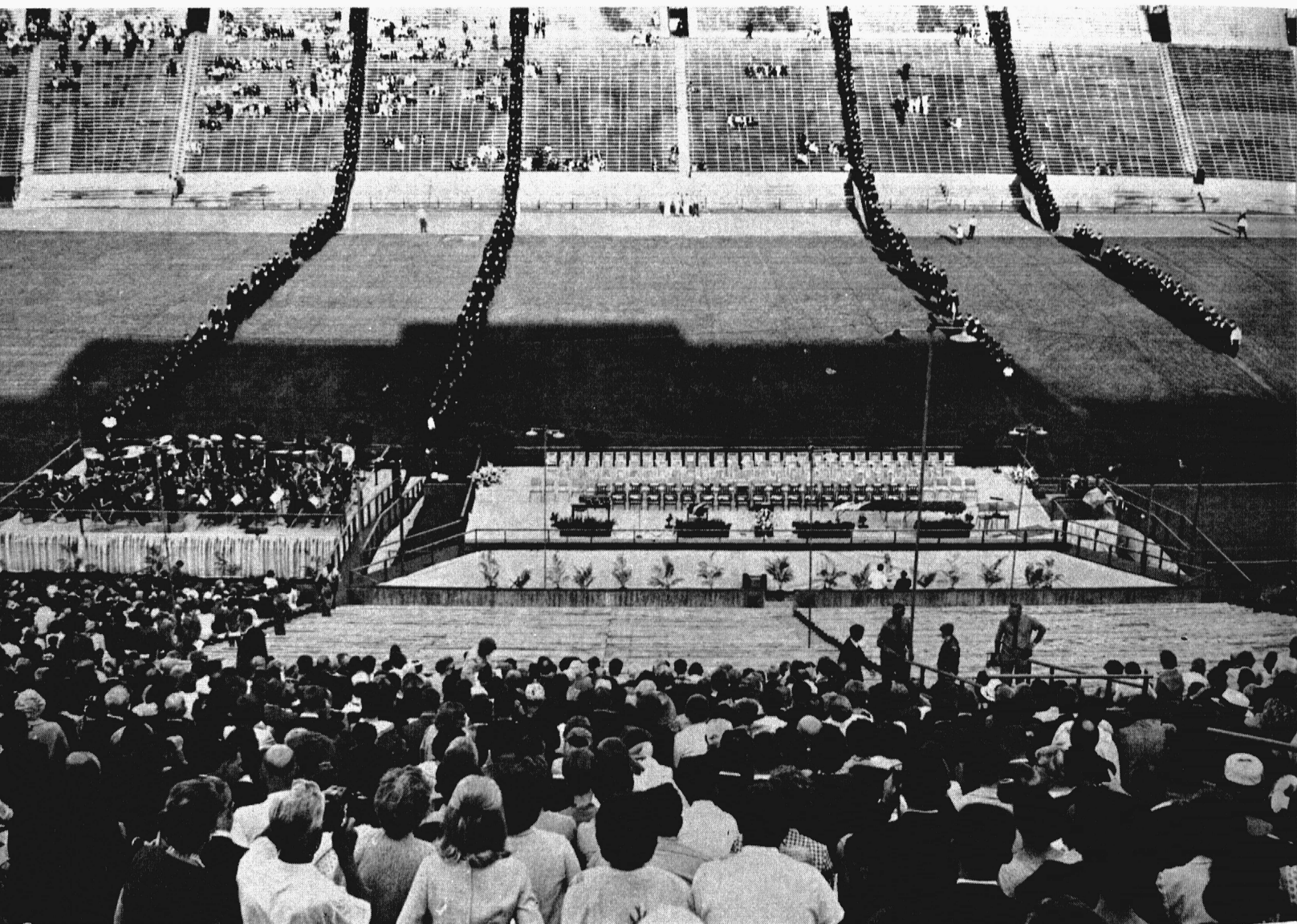
He said he felt that the people of Missouri and their elected representatives have become much more cognizant in recent years of the importance of providing excellent higher education.

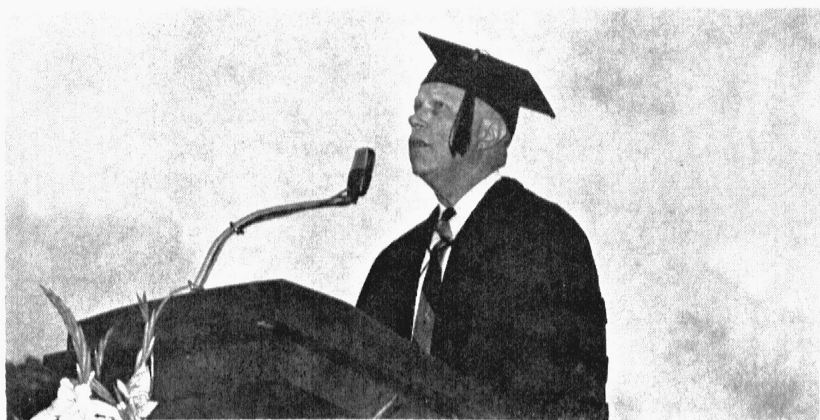
"One area in which public enlightenment is still much to be desired," he said, "is the need of public institutions to be recipients of private giving—industrial, business and individual. State schools do not and cannot get all the money they need from state appropriations."

Reporting on gifts and grants, Mr. Neill said a total of \$11,528,359 had been given to the University here between May 16, 1965 and May 16, 1966. "These gifts have come to the University from 7,437 individuals, companies, foundations, national and state organizations and the federal government," Mr. Neill said. "This is an increase over the preceding year of \$3,526,277." He praised the continuing support of alumni and former students.

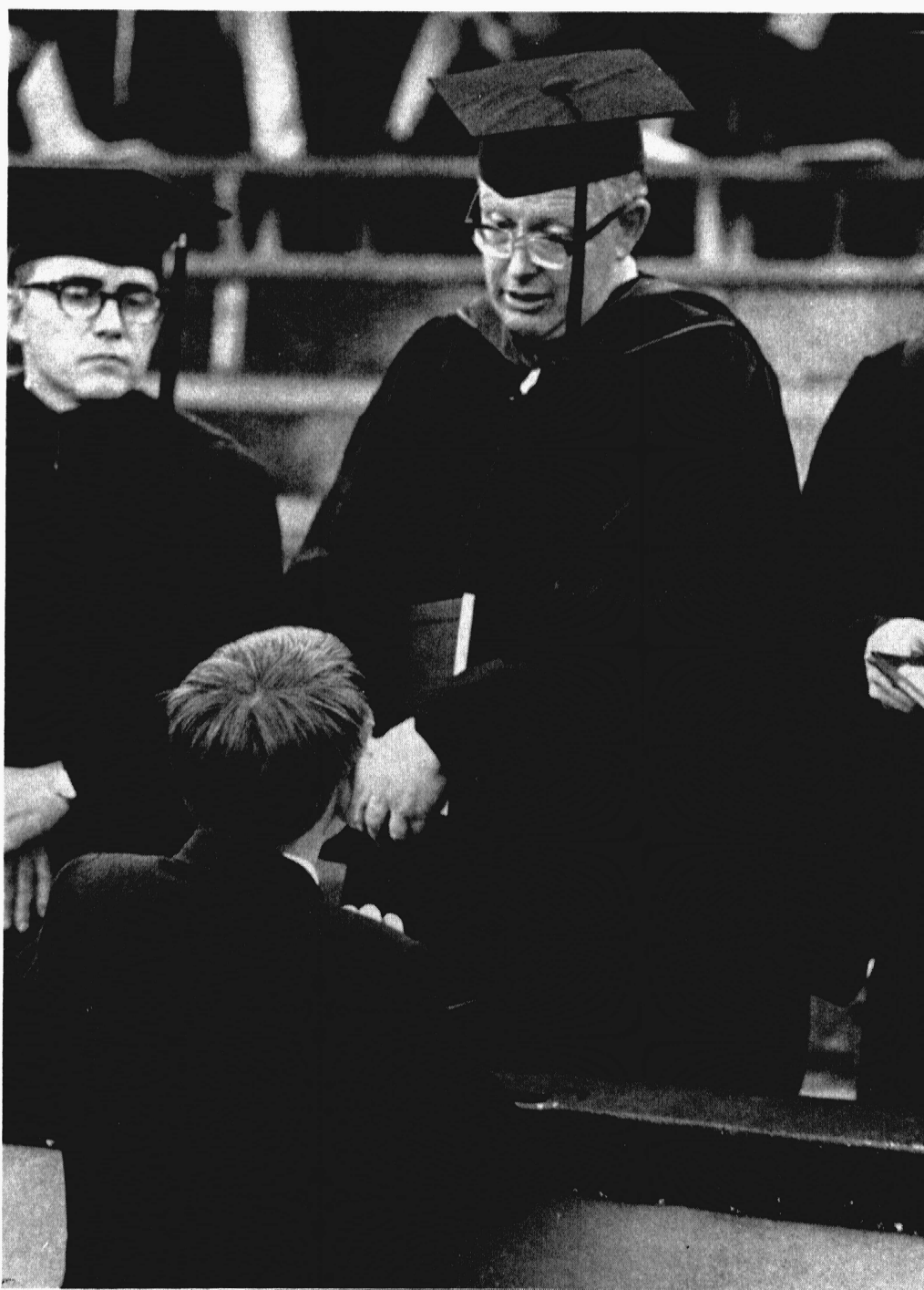
B. W. Robinson of Jefferson City, vice-president of the University Alumni Association, presented distinguished awards to Dr. Herbert Bunker and Dr. A. Sterl Artley (see pages 16 and 17).

Rain or shine, Commencement never loses its pomp and ceremony. "Missouri must have its share of highly educated people," Justice Finch tells graduates.





The Commencement speaker, Judge James A. Finch, Jr.



*Photos by
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