

MEMO to Nolan Boggs  
2414 Meadowood Dr.  
Toledo 6, Ohio

From Jess Long

April 25, 1957

In the fall of 1950 the University of Toledo found itself without a president -- again. In the preceding four years it had operated under four different administrations, during which time two presidents and an acting president had died. Some people began to talk about the job being a jinx. Jinx or not, such turnover is not healthful for any institution, so the Board of Directors had the heavy responsibility of finding a new president who was dynamic, experienced, able -- and healthy.

We found him in the person of Asa S. Knowles, then vice president for development at Cornell. He took office early in 1951 and the last six years have seen our university grow in academic stature and physical assets in a manner that has been most gratifying to us as board members and to our citizens, too, I am sure.

In bringing Dr. Knowles to Toledo the Board was especially impressed with his remarkable record in organizing the Associated Colleges of Upper New York. These were three new temporary colleges to provide educational opportunities for veterans returning from World War II. Starting from scratch, they soon were serving more than 17,000 students. This feat brought him national recognition -- including a story in the Saturday Evening Post which some of you may have read.

Before taking this exacting assignment in 1946, he had been Dean of Business Administration at Northeastern University in Boston and had held a similar position at Rhode Island State College.

more

2 - Asa S. Knowles

A native of Maine, he received his academic training at Bowdoin College, Boston University and the Harvard Graduate School of Business.

In Toledo he has become known as an effective educational leader and administrator. He has served the community as chairman of the Toledo Traffic Safety Council and president of the Greater Toledo Educational Television Foundation, Inc., and has been a member of many local boards and committees. Recently Governor O'Neill appointed him to the important State Commission on Education Beyond the High School. This group's recommendations may set the pattern of higher education in Ohio for many years to come, and we are proud to have our city and our university represented on it.

Dr. Knowles, his wife and daughter, Peggy, live in the president's residence on the campus where he is never far from his work. Faculty members say he expects them to work hard, but they add "who can complain when the president works harder than anyone else?"

We feel his hard work is paying off for our university and our city, and this is important to everyone of us here today.

And so it gives me pleasure to introduce the president of the University of Toledo.....

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