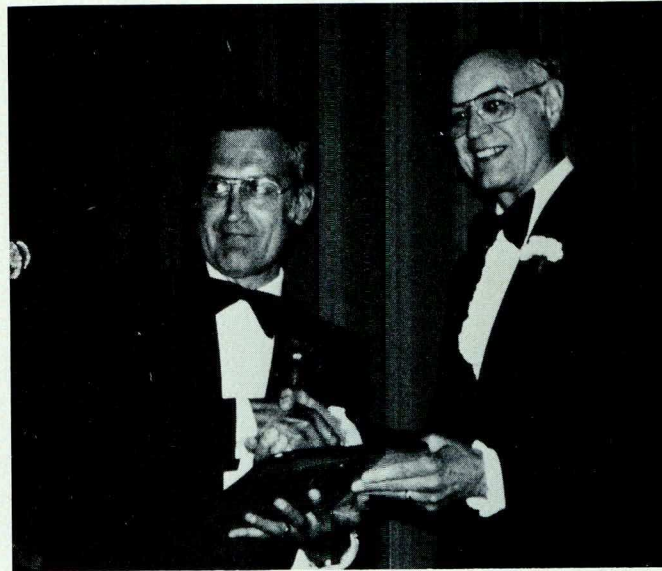


Exerpts From the Acceptance Speech of C.A.O. Presidents' Award Recipient Dr. E.J. (Woody) Spearman

PRESIDENT'S DINNER ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND
C.A.O. CONGRESS, JULY 7, 1981



Mr. Chairman, Past-President Roy, Past-President Jack, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Someone once said "success is the ability to receive the credit for all the hard work that someone else has done" — and that's very much the way I feel this evening.

The dictionary tells us that success also means "good fortune" and certainly Marian and I have had the good fortune to be a part of optometry, to have the privilege of knowing so many wonderful people, of travelling to the different provinces and perhaps have had some input into the direction of the profession.

I think that good fortune may also mean "to be recognized" and that in itself is an honour — but to be recognized by one's peers is the greatest honour.

It is the greatest honour because your peers know you well — they know your strengths and they know your weaknesses, and best of all they are kind enough to dwell on the former and overlook the latter.

Optometry is a great teacher.

1. It teaches one to apply one's self to achieve a certain academic standard.
2. It teaches us to be aware of one's duty to society because optometry is a social science.
3. It teaches us to appreciate the tools which our leaders and academics have given us, that we may provide the best vision care possible.
4. It teaches us to appreciate the beautiful simplicity of children with their revealing answers from uncluttered minds.
5. It teaches us compassion for those less fortunate than we.
6. It teaches us that goals are important and sacrifices are necessary if we are to achieve those goals whatever the adversity.
7. It teaches us to do our homework that we may choose the right course and having chosen that course never to waver.
8. Optometry teaches us that kindness, love and concern are much greater and more effective forces than self-serving motivation.
9. It teaches us that optometry is a family affair whether it be the provinces that make up C.A.O., whether it be the individual optometrists that make up the provincial family or association, or whether it be the individual family with the optometrist and his wife, or her husband and the children, because every member of the family is involved directly or indirectly with optometry; it requires all the resources of a family and the whole family shares in the responsibilities, the privileges and the rewards of the profession.

In summary it has been my good fortune to have the support of many wonderful people.

I thank each and every one of you for the great honour which you have bestowed upon me this evening in the presentation of this award and I receive this award as a symbol of the contribution which each optometric family in Canada is making each day to the betterment of the profession. Thank you all so much.