VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE FOR S.A.B.C

The year 1984 has generally been kind to Rhodes University. Despite the troubled times, we avoided any dislocation in our business of imparting, preserving and extending knowledge. Neither George Orwell's gloomy prognostications nor the delay in the proper introduction of the new subsidy formula did us any lasting harm.

By careful husbandry we overcame the financial hurdles, thus preserving the stability that a university needs if it is to perform properly. The prospects in 1985 remain problematic and we at Rhodes have budgeted fairly conservatively.

Our last major construction project for some time to come, Gold Fields "House" is a residence for 78 men and is the result of a handsome donation from the Gold Fields Foundation. This probably marks the end of a sustained expansionary period during which student numbers have increased by an average of four per cent per annum. Our total all-in student numbers may reach 3 500 in 1985, of whom about 2 900 will be full-time in Grahamstown.

A general deceleration in university expansion, and consequent selectivity is a healthy development, for in comparison with other countries South Africa should have a greater proportion of its tertiary education directed towards technikons and allied institutions.

Our East London Division is, however, likely to expand to nearly 200 undergraduates and about 20 postgraduate students, most of whom will enrol for the B Com and B Ed degrees.

The recent confusion and disorder in certain Eastern Cape schools makes Rhodes University very conscious of its place in society. Our prime commitment is to scholarship, and it is vital that we work in an atmosphere
of objectivity and order. The Senate and Council and, to a large extent, the student body are conscious of the need to avoid the politicisation of the university. What has been built up at Rhodes with toil and patience over 80 years must be guarded very carefully. In 1985 we shall be working hard to ensure that all that is best in our great tradition remains intact for future generations.

It finally read at 2 min 06 sec with the further changes above.

I.e., 306 words in 2.1 minutes
or 146 words/minute

D.S.H.
26/11/84
140 - 150 words a minute is about right for public speaking.