

WILLIAM CHAPMAN FOSTER, Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, described by the New York Times as “a Republican business man who was turned by Democrats into a public servant.” Entering M.I.T., he was one of those who received a wartime degree, having served as a Second Lieutenant and military aviator in World War I. After service, he turned to business, joining in 1922 the Pressed and Welded Steel Products Company, with which he was associated for twenty-four years. Though a small company, he made it significant, and he developed capacities as an able administrator which, in the vortex of World War II and its aftermath, pulled him into public service. He served in various positions, mostly in the field of procurement, for which he was given the Medal for Merit for distinguished civilian service. In 1946 he turned full-time to the Government, first with the Department of Commerce as Under Secretary, then with the Marshall Plan’s Economic Cooperation Administration, as its Administrator for a time, and then with the Department of Defense as Deputy Secretary. Nine years later he returned to business, but in 1961 heeded the call of the President, and assumed his present position, soon becoming also Chief United States Representative to the eighteen-nation Disarmament Conference. A living refutation of the dichotomy so often attributed to government and business, you have proved that character and ability are equally at home in both. As a skilled administrator, a patient and tolerant diplomat, and a wise public official who can work simultaneously with NATO allies, State Department colleagues, Capitol Hill lawmakers and the press, we pay you honor.

Honoris Causa, DOCTOR OF LAWS