

DORIS PIKE WHITE, of Washington County, Maine, and Washington, D.C., investment banker and public citizen. A graduate of Wellesley College, herself a descendant of an American revolutionist, she would now revolutionize the corporate Daughters of the American Revolution. Bringing into play rare business acumen, executive ability and personal charm, all long known to the Society of Bowdoin Women and to her many Bowdoin friends, as President General she has reorganized business enterprises of the National Society to bring profit rather than loss, and strives to revitalize worthy interest in the organization. Once a high school teacher, later a public school board member, helping to plan the 1954 White House Conference on Highway Safety, she has long contributed to worthwhile things, and presently serves her second term as one of three lay members of the Maine Judicial Council. Devoted to the objective “to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American Freedom,” she cherishes the “ideals, visions, and sense of purpose” of our nation’s heritage, and emphasizes the necessary prerequisite understanding of the philosophical basis for our faith in American ideals, if we are to be an effective people of “firm belief in individual rights of life, liberty and property, and freedom of religion and of the press.” She holds the concept of American individual freedom to be essentially a matter of spirit. We heartily join in her caution reflecting her knowledge of Gibbon, that “In the miraculous success of individual freedom in producing the material comforts of life, we may find the danger to freedom itself,” and that “Undue emphasis upon material things, the idea of security at all costs, even at the expense of freedom and justice, may in the end destroy the very freedom which produces the material blessings.” Or, as she quotes her own Emerson, “For what avail...if freedom fail.”

Honoris Causa, DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS