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# Pro Rege

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Volume 44  
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue 2015*

Article 7

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December 2015

## When George McGovern Spoke in Chapel at the College

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*Dordt College*

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### Recommended Citation

Schelhaas, David (2015) "When George McGovern Spoke in Chapel at the College," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 44: No. 2, 10.  
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A quarterly faculty publication of  
Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

# When George McGovern Spoke in Chapel at the College

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*Dave Schelhaas*

He stood behind the lectern without a note,  
eighty-six years old, tanned, a youthful grin  
flashing across his face. Bu then he began to speak  
the sober words on hunger, telling  
about starving kids he saw when he served in WW II  
and starving kids he still sees today. He talked about ways  
to save kids from starvation, about the modern Food Stamp program which  
he crafted with Republican Dole back in the days when Congress worked,  
and school lunch programs in America and around the world.  
He has always had a heart for the young, this old warrior  
against war who once said he was “fed up with old men  
dreaming up wars for young men to go die in.”

It was the chapel service at Northwestern College  
but he read no scripture, said little about God, except this,  
except these five lines which he sang in a clear tenor voice  
with just a hint of an old man’s quaver:  
“Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the world,  
Red and yellow, black and white  
They are precious in his sight,  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.”

So often, less is more.