



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Grand Lodge Committee on Leadership Services F. & A. M. New York

Introduction

A leadership development course should start by providing information about the institution that generates the course. A course developed by the Craft should introduce an understanding of Freemasonry. The course should present an argument for the worth of the Institution. Therefore, this first lesson deals with knowing our product.

It consists of two parts, the philosophy of Freemasonry and the history of the Craft. The more we study Freemasonry the more we become impressed with its rich heritage and what the Craft has done to help stabilize society.

Fred P. Corson, President of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., in 1938 said, "America owes its governmental stability and her success as a democracy to her spiritual foundation. Prior to 1787 the work of laying this foundation was by the Church and by the Masonic Fraternity." It should be evident that a democracy is dependant on a stable society. Freemasonry continues to help provide some of the stability we still have.

Another great genius of Freemasonry is its emphasis on providing a place for the "high, the low, the rich the poor." It helps to break down the barriers between economic and social classes. If Freemasonry does not do any more than this, and while it provides a laboratory for such lessons to be practiced, then it serves the greatest need of all time, and especially the needs of today.

Another social need deals with the sins of ignorance. In 1926 Dean Veranus Moore, Cornell University, said, "No man who holds truth lightly or chooses to remain in ignorance or is intolerant of others can be a true Mason." Freemasonry is an educational institution. Through it we learn to improve ourselves as human beings, as citizens and as brothers.

We have listed but a few of the eloquent compliments given to Freemasonry by its supporters. Freemasonry provides basic training in brotherhood, and basic training in education and the need for it. It trains its votaries to be tolerant of others and their views. Finally, the Fraternity plays a vital role in stabilizing society and thus it helps to stabilize government.