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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

ORVILLE A. HITCHCOCK

Mr. Chairman and members of the
Central States Speech Association:

I am pleased to have this opportunity of representing the Speech Association of America at the annual conference of the Central States Speech Association. I bring you greetings from the officers and members of SAA and best wishes for a successful conference. I have been asked to talk with you about "Professional Relationships and Responsibilities." This I am glad to do because I take "Professional Relationships and Responsibilities" to be a fancy way of saying: "You should join as many as possible of the speech associations for which you are eligible." This is a thesis which I believe sincerely and which I think I can defend. Therefore, with your permission, I'd like to try my hand at being somewhat of a salesman today. In about twenty minutes I'd like to outline what seem to me to be some of the principal reasons for supporting our various speech associations and to present some of the worth-while benefits.

Underlying my proposition is reasoning that runs something like this: Teachers of speech are engaged in an important activity, important to the individual and important to society. Organizations which further our common cause should be supported. Speech teachers owe it to themselves, to their field, and to all who benefit from their teaching—and that is nearly everyone—to join and to be active in, these speech organizations. From such associations we gain much individually and personally, making us better teachers and thus contributing directly to the advancement of our field. But we also gain collectively, because together

ORVILLE A. HITCHCOCK is Executive Vice President of the Speech Association of America. This is a condensation of the General Session Address at the 1949 Central States Speech Association Conference.

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