Historic moment—the Torch of Education is passed from Northwest School representative David Bohnsack to Ron Tobkin, Technical Institute student.

Sahlstrom was the speaker at the 58th commencement of Northwest School graduates in March 1966. He addressed the 72 graduating seniors, speaking on "Tomorrow is Yours."

Two years later, on March 22, 1968, the last class of the Northwest School of Agriculture graduated. The 60th and final commencement exercises were held in Kiehle auditorium, and 42 seniors received diplomas.

The Northwest School graduated 5,433 students during its 63-year-old history. In addition, between 500 to 600 completed the teachers' training course offered at the School between 1912 and 1919.

Superintendent B.E. Youngquist awarded the final diplomas. He commented "While closing this school is saddening, it's necessary. Its closing is logical because the technical college concept makes it as old fashioned as the butter churn." Regent Herman F. Skyberg suggested the final commencement of the Northwest School was further evidence of the evolution of education in Minnesota.

Before a packed auditorium audience, a moving ceremony took place on that March day. David Bohnsack of Hillsboro, N.D., president of the Northwest class of '68, transferred the lighted Torch of Educational Service to Ron Tobkin of Perham, Student Senate treasurer for the Institute. The ceremony marked the passing of the educational duties to the new institution.

A long and proud history had come to an end. A new one was beginning.