I think I have participated in a lot of ground-breaking ceremonies. In 1968, I watched them dig the first shovel for the creation of Fermilab -- eighteen years ago. You wield a ceremonial shovel and go about your business and before you know it -- a building exists and you say -- "my God, where did the time go?" But it isn't the building that we are breaking ground for today -- it's the institution; the I.M.S.A. and it is here -- within this volume of space, in middle America -- that we will make history -- that legends will be told and retold about how IMSA began -- about how its first class had to rough it -- how primitive were the Macintoshes and IBM PC's and the CRAYS that the students were forced to use -- how easy the science was but how hard it seemed. I think it is crucial that we be very sensitive to the fact that we will be part of legends -- the beginnings of a dramatic evolution of science education -- a response born in the prairie to the alarms sounded in Washington and throughout the nation.

Somewhere in this space over our heads there will soon be walls and cots and desks and computers -- and there will be the students of IMSA and if they are similar to other gifted students they will be discussing the mind boggling problem
assigned in integral calculus or algebraic topology. Others will be playing chess and some of them will be deep in discussions of their concerns about the world. If we do things right -- they will be aware of what we really expect of them -- to be creative students -- yes. To be superb engineers -- of course. To be brilliant neurosurgeons and research the origins of life and aging. To advance the technology of Artificial Intelligence and robotics -- to help our industries compete in an evermore challenging environment -- all this! But we expect more -- we want to cultivate an awareness of the social and political deeds required of them -- of the fact that our technological civilization grows increasingly vulnerable -- that we have yet to find a cheap, non-polluting source of energy, that our ozone layer is shrinking alarmingly under the impact of fossil fuels, that various vital minerals and ores are becoming more difficult to find and that only 1/4 of the world's population is enjoying the benefits of the technology that produces these problems -- that new diseases like Legionnaires and AIDS keep cropping up to baffle us -- that we live under the constant threat of total world catastrophe in a nuclear war -- and that the only hope of being able to solve these and other awesome problems lies in the creative human mind -- properly nourished, confident, encouraged to let imaginations soar...this is what we are putting in place -- in the space above our heads today. And one day, the future inhabitants of the space here will return to this place as
alumni -- they will be scholars and scientists, engineers and businessmen, musicians and healers, perhaps even politicians. You can be sure they will return because of the seminal experiences they will have had, in this space here -- and seeing them, we will really know what a good thing it is that we did on August 11, 1986 and we will also think -- "my God, where did the time go?"