



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. Helmut and Hugo Eppich October 1991

Madam Chancellor, I take pleasure in presenting to you Helmut and Hugo Eppich, whose achievements in the halls of industry represent Canadian entrepreneurship at its finest. With deft judgment borne of the conviction that success lies in diversity, the founders and principals of the Ebco Group of Companies have dared mighty things, tackling new ventures, guided always by strong ethical standards.

Stressing excellence, virtue and merit, their management style has its roots in their youth. Born 1933 in Yugoslavia, Hugo and Helmut Eppich spent their childhood years in Germany during the Second World War. Foreigners isolated from a sense of country and home, the twins learned first hand the effects of bigotry and intolerance – an experience which gives life to their employee relations at Ebco Industries where the multicultural workforce of 900 people represents 48 nationalities.

Their industrial enterprise began modestly, but at its source was the hunt for challenge. In 1956 when the Eppich brothers arrived in Vancouver, they opened a tool and die shop and made diversity its selling point. A keen sense of developing markets led to new subsidiaries and today the Ebco Group manufactures products ranging from tunnel boring machines to office furniture, from data collection computers to cyclotrons and airplane parts.

The Eppichs' energy and commitment to business is mirrored in community endeavours, where their unselfish donation of time is often matched by more tangible expressions of goodwill. Our own University has been the recipient of their generosity as Helmut and Hugo Eppich provided the leadership gift and volunteered countless hours to establish a Chair in Expert Systems.