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MSU will honor commencement speaker

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Russ B. Hart of Billings will receive the honorary degree of doctor of laws from Montana State University at its commencement exercises on June 10. He is being honored for outstanding contributions to education and civic improvement in Montana, University officials said. Hart will also deliver the commencement address.

Hart was chairman of the State White House Committee for Education and a Montana delegate to the White House Conference on Education in 1955. Governor Aronson appointed him chairman of the Montana Citizens' Committee for the Schools, organized to continue the work of the State White House Committee.

He is a former chairman of the Billings school board. He has served several terms as director of the Billings Commercial Club. During World War II he was a commander of the Billings civil defense organization and a war bond drive chairman. He has been active in Red Cross, Community Chest, fire prevention, and airport development work.

Born in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Hart attended public grade schools in Billings, was graduated from Shattuck Military Academy in Faribault, Minn. and received his bachelor of arts degree from Stanford University, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He also holds the degree of master of business administration from Harvard.

Hart is married to the former Senia Croonquist. They are the parents of four children. He is president of the Hart-Albin Co. and of the Mercantile Investment, Broadway Realty, and Rimrock Realty Companies, all of Billings, and is a director of the National Dry Goods Assn.