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JULY 10, 1981

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U OF M HEALTH SCIENCES VP
ANNOUNCES PLANS TO STEP DOWN

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Dr. Lyle A. French, vice president for health sciences at the University of Minnesota, today (July 10) announced plans to step down as vice president to return to clinical and teaching duties on the Medical School faculty.

"I've been in the vice president's position now for 11 years and believe it is time for a change," French said. "It has been a very interesting and rewarding experience working as vice president for health sciences but there are things in clinical medicine which I haven't had time to do and would like to accomplish."

French, who previously served as chief of staff of University Hospitals and chairman of the department of neurosurgery in the Medical School, has asked University President C. Peter Magrath to appoint a search committee to find a replacement. French will remain as vice president until a successor is named.

Magrath commended French for his role in shaping events at the Center. "Lyle French has provided vice presidential leadership in very unique years, since he's the first vice president for health sciences we have had. He helped to develop the re-modernization of the total health sciences," he said. "His fundamental contribution is the expansion and development of health sciences. Beyond that, he has been an invaluable faculty and staff member at the University, one of the major leaders, and has contributed enormously."

Under French's leadership, the Health Sciences schools have expanded to provide educational opportunities for many more students in nursing, medicine, dentistry, public health, pharmacy and allied health programs. Since 1973, new facilities have been built to house four of the five schools on the Twin Cities campus and the Medical School in Duluth and during this year's legislative session, a bonding bill was passed to enable renewal of the University Hospitals.

(MORE)

A native of Worthing, S.D., French earned his undergraduate degree from Macalester College in St. Paul. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1939 and took his internship and residency here as well.

French's graduate training in neurosurgery was interrupted by World War II where he served as a neurosurgeon in the U.S. Army for three years in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. He was discharged in 1946 with the rank of major.

French returned to the University and earned both an M.S. and Ph.D. degree in neurosurgery. Named an instructor on the Medical School faculty in 1947, French climbed the academic ladder to become professor and chairman of the neurosurgery department in 1960.

Elected chief of staff of University Hospitals in 1968, French was appointed vice president for health sciences in 1970. Although he resigned the chairmanship of the department, French has remained active as a professor of neurosurgery.

French holds membership in many professional organizations and has served as president of the Minneapolis Academy of Medicine, the Minnesota Society of Neurological Sciences, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American Academy of Neurological Surgery, and the Neurological Society of America. In 1974, he received the Neurosurgeon Award from the American Academy of Neurological Surgery, the highest honor in his medical field.

The author of more than 200 professional papers, French serves on the board of editors of Modern Medicine and the Yearbook of Cancer, two professional medical journals. He served as editor of the Journal of Neurosurgery from 1968 to 1974, as consultant to the U.S. Surgeon General and on the President's National Commission on the study of multiple sclerosis. In addition, French has been active on many committees of the National Institutes of Health and the Advisory Council for Neurological Diseases and Strokes.