

ORIGINAL

ADDRESS

OF

THE HONORABLE GRIFFIN B. BELL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

BEFORE

THE BOYS' CLUBS OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New York, New York  
October 25, 1978

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1978

WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 THE MODERATOR: There's a lot of talk going on  
3 around about us sponsoring or having a television spectacular  
4 next year sometime; there's a lot of debate as to who the  
5 Master of Ceremonies should be. I think that's been answered  
6 tonight: we've got him in-house.

7 [Laughter; applause.]

8 THE MODERATOR: But seriously, it is a great pleasure  
9 for me to be able to introduce our speaker tonight. I'd like  
10 you to know a little bit more about him personally than you  
11 may know.

12 He's a native of a very large town in Georgia, about  
13 the same size as my town in Mississippi, Americus, Georgia.  
14 Now, you may not have heard much about Americus, Georgia, but  
15 you probably have heard a good deal about a town about 12  
16 miles away called Plains, Georgia.

17 [Laughter.]

18 THE MODERATOR: He attended public schools in Georgia.  
19 He went to Georgia Southwestern College, and he was graduated  
20 -- this is where he and I sort of part company in our small-town  
21 heritage -- he was graduated cum laude from Mercer University  
22 Law School in Macon, Georgia. And he holds many honorary  
23 degrees from colleges and universities all over the country.

24 He, like a lot of us, served in the United States  
25 Army in World War II and, unlike a lot of us, achieved the

1 rank of Major before he terminated his services.

2 He was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1947 and  
3 practiced law in Savannah and Rome, Georgia, before joining  
4 a very famous law firm in Atlanta known as King and Spalding.

5 In 1961 he was appointed by President John F.  
6 Kennedy to serve on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the  
7 Fifth Circuit. He served on the Court for 14 and a half years,  
8 until March of 1976.

9 And, if I may depart from my notes for a minute,  
10 most people don't know this, but those of you who followed  
11 the actions of that Court during that period will know that,  
12 contrary to some publicity he got during his confirmation  
13 hearings, he was one of the most distinguished jurists in the  
14 country in helping provide a smooth transition from segrega-  
15 tion to desegregation.

16 [Applause.]

17 THE MODERATOR: And is regarded by us from the  
18 South as being one of the key factors in the smooth transition  
19 that happened in the South, contrary to most public opinion.

20 He came to the Department of Justice with a broad  
21 and deep knowledge and understanding of the law. But, more  
22 than that, he came to his Cabinet post as a man with vast  
23 experience in how our laws are administered and how our  
24 systems of justice affect people like us in our daily lives.

25 He has served in many distinguished volunteer posts,

1 among them: Chairman of the Committee on Innovation and  
2 Development of the Federal Judicial Center, and Chairman of  
3 the American Bar Association's Division of Judicial Administra-  
4 tion.

5 Of particular interest to all of us who are devoted  
6 to the mission of Boys' Clubs, is the fact that he served as  
7 Chairman of the Atlanta Commission on Crime and Juvenile  
8 Delinquency.

9 In his position as Attorney General -- and, inciden-  
10 tally, he's not a politician; and I happen to know that he  
11 didn't seek the job, in fact shunned the job. But, having  
12 taken it, he has contributed mightily, and continues to do  
13 so, to a restoration of the faith of our people in the  
14 institutions and principles that bind our nation together.

15 It is indeed a great honor for me to introduce to  
16 you one of the true strong men of America, the Attorney  
17 General of the United States, Mr. Griffin Bell.

18 [Applause.]

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Mr. Chairman, distinguished  
20 guests and distinguished people -- I think everyone is  
21 distinguished; I have not met anyone who is not distinguished.

22 I want to thank Luke for the warm introduction.  
23 I join in thanking him for the wine, but I've known him a  
24 long time -- I used to have a special connection with him,  
25 and it will be known by the fact that I carry a Coca-Cola

1 knife in my pocket.

2 [Laughter.]

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Luke and I are from a  
4 strange region of the country, and I'm sure he had the same  
5 experience that I had as a child. I was reared to be a  
6 Southerner. I was in World War II before I knew I was an  
7 American!

8 [Laughter; applause.]

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: I went through a period  
10 where I was -- after I learned about America, I was a  
11 Southerner first and an American second. And then I changed,  
12 I finally became an American first and a Southerner second.  
13 And after all the years I was on the Fifth Circuit Court of  
14 Appeals, and those times, I finally decided there was not  
15 any conflict. And that's a great thing to learn that.

16 [Laughter.]

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Mr. Hirshberg, I want to  
18 thank you for what you've done, and say to you that I may  
19 need to employ you as a lawyer. I'm in so much trouble.

20 [Laughter.]

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: That I'm always looking  
22 for lawyers. I'm in contempt of court -- I don't know how  
23 that will come out. I have 3800 lawyers in the Justice  
24 Department, and I'm the only lawyer who can tell the Solicitor  
25 General that I want to argue a case in the Supreme Court and

1 he has to stand aside and let me argue. And I said to him:  
2 Get me an easy case.

3 [Laughter.]

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Get me one I can't possibly  
5 lose. He said, "I have just the case." He gave me the  
6 snail darter case.

7 [Laughter.]

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: And of course I argued for  
9 the dam.

10 [Laughter.]

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: And you know how that came  
12 out.

13 [Laughter.]

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: We're going through some  
15 great changes in Washington. We came as outsiders and didn't  
16 want to have anything to do with the Washington establishment,  
17 and we used to blame everything on people who had been there  
18 before. And I started telling this story about the drunk who  
19 was charged with being drunk and setting a bed on fire. The  
20 President finally took the story and told it on national  
21 television. The first time he used it, he did not give me  
22 credit for it, but he did the second time.

23 The story was that the man said that he would plead  
24 guilty to being drunk, but the bed was on fire when he got in  
25 it.

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[Laughter.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: I tell you that because that was Phase One of the Carter Administration.

[Laughter.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: We are now going to Phase Two.

Phase Two is demonstrated by the story of the Territorial Governor of Nevada, who had been there a while, and he wrote back to Washington to report and he said: "This is no place for a Christian." And he added: "I did not remain one long."

[Laughter.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: That's where we are now.

[Laughter.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: I would have rather left after Dave spoke. I would have left, but I had something like that happen to me, Dave, this summer. I was here in New York at the American Bar meeting and they had the Attorney General of England and Wales who spoke ahead of me. I thought, when I agreed to speak, -- it was not a debate, we were just both on the same program -- that surely, as an American, they would let me speak first.

He was the most articulate person I think I've ever heard speak, and I had to speak following him. So I waived argument. And I finally decided to say a few words after

1 having waived; but I felt that way when Dave spoke tonight.  
2 That was a thrilling story Dave told us.

3 I appreciate Luke asking me to speak tonight, in an  
4 age of increasing involvement in our lives by the government,  
5 it is immensely vital that groups such as the Boys' Clubs of  
6 America continue to receive the recognition they deserve  
7 for voluntary private service to society.

8 I'm sure that I speak for the President in saluting  
9 these efforts that you have so unselfishly made over many  
10 years in character development and prevention of juvenile  
11 delinquency among countless thousands of young boys.

12 And it is to your additional credit that you have  
13 done this work particularly among the disadvantaged and the  
14 poor, who are all too often represented in the population of  
15 juvenile offenders that I must deal with as Attorney General.

16 Perhaps if this country would provide more moral  
17 and financial support to organizations such as the Boys' Clubs,  
18 they could do with providing less resources to the criminal  
19 justice system. And this is very apt to the Federal Bureau of  
20 Prisons, in the construction of newer, ever-larger juvenile  
21 facilities.

22 Ideally, society's interest in the proper development  
23 of its youth should be jointly the responsibility of the  
24 private and public sectors. The role you play, the role that  
25 public schools play, and the role played by juvenile justice

1 agencies, including the Department of Justice, should be  
2 complementary.

3 In this regard, I might mention here some of the  
4 efforts going on now within the Department, in the area of  
5 juvenile justice and youth problems.

6 Our major vehicle is the Office of Juvenile Justice  
7 and Delinquency Prevention, which is a part of the Law  
8 Enforcement Assistance Administration. And some of you, with  
9 whom I have spoken tonight, had a good deal with having this  
10 agency created by the Congress. That one office has a budget  
11 of about \$100 million in the current fiscal year. Most of  
12 those funds are spent for grants to State and local govern-  
13 ments, which can deal more directly with local communities  
14 and their juvenile populations.

15 I might add that such federal support, rather than  
16 direct federal intervention, is probably the most appropriate  
17 method by which we in the Justice Department can work in this  
18 area. These grants are supporting scores of innovative and  
19 important projects around the country. One of the most  
20 promising is that which has already been mentioned, and which  
21 is operated by the Boys' Clubs of America. Your effort to  
22 reduce delinquency by 50 percent among a selective group of  
23 youths in nine cities is what I refer to.

24 To date it has received some \$457,000 in LEAA funds.  
25 And I might say here this is something that is of very serious

1 concern to me. This \$100 million that we have to spend, it  
2 sounds like a lot of money and it is a lot of money; and,  
3 strangely enough, it's more money than we can spend because  
4 there's such a dearth of ideas in this country about what to  
5 do about delinquency, that we have a hard time placing the  
6 money in good projects.

7 I met not long ago with the Advisory Committee to  
8 this same agency -- in 1965 and '66, as Luke said, I was  
9 Chairman of this study in Atlanta; and I found very little  
10 had been thought of since then. It's been 12 years. And I  
11 was amazed at how few new things had surfaced in that time.

12 So, while \$450,000 may sound like a lot of money,  
13 what you're doing is an innovative work and something that  
14 you can well spend more money on, in the event it works in  
15 these nine cities. It's an example of what I believe to be  
16 possible in the way of cooperation between the public and  
17 private sectors in reducing juvenile crime.

18 In the government we have also taken another  
19 fundamental principle from the Boys' Clubs; namely, that  
20 prevention of delinquency should be a major focus of our  
21 efforts, and that prevention can be done by providing meaning-  
22 ful employment opportunities for young people.

23 As you know, both the President and Vice President  
24 have been extremely concerned about youth unemployment in  
25 this country, and they are trying strenuously to see that the

1 youth employment in Demonstration Projects Act, and the CETA,  
2 Comprehensive Employment and Training Act -- by the way, that's  
3 been the hardest thing for me to adjust to in Washington.  
4 You have to learn initials, everything goes by initials.

5 [Laughter.]

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: CETA. That's the  
7 Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. At any rate, we  
8 are trying to see that those two programs are implemented in  
9 local communities. Its efforts are being led by the Department  
10 of Labor, but in the Justice Department we are cooperating  
11 with new pilot programs that are operated by the LEAA, the  
12 Bureau of Prisons and the Immigration and Naturalization  
13 Service -- INS we call that.

14 [Laughter.]

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: The common denominator to  
16 these programs is that we are providing both employment  
17 opportunities and at the same time we are encouraging  
18 disadvantaged young people to consider careers in law enforce-  
19 ment. So we think we have a double approach and that it will  
20 work out well for our country.

21 We have 50 young people employed under this program  
22 in LEAA right now, working on a wide variety of research  
23 projects, aimed at making our neighborhoods safer. They are  
24 serving as counselors, project assistants, research assistants  
25 in the development of new and better ways to combat rape,

1 consumer fraud at State and local levels. In our Bureau of  
2 Prisons, students are working as teacher aides and in other  
3 auxiliary positions.

4 Over 300 young men and women, almost 90 percent of  
5 whom are disadvantaged minorities, are working in the  
6 Immigration offices throughout the southern half of the  
7 country, helping us to cope with the enormous backlog of  
8 alien applications and other requests for changes in status.

9 Some \$11 million per year of CETA funds have been  
10 obligated to support this effort, which, while helping us,  
11 is also providing employment and training for those who need  
12 it most.

13 I mention these programs as examples of the way in  
14 which we in government are trying to match your own efforts  
15 in the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency.  
16 These efforts are not only complementary, they are desperately  
17 necessary today, in light of what we know about the magnitude  
18 of youth crime.

19 According to the latest FBI figures, which I have  
20 ordered released recently, 56 percent of those arrested in  
21 the United States during 1977 were under age 25. Fifty-six  
22 percent.

23 Forty percent were under the age of 21. And, even  
24 more shocking, 24 percent of all the people arrested in 1977  
25 were under the age of 18.

1           There used to be a common impression, or misimpres-  
2 sion, that such criminal activity was limited largely to the  
3 major inner cities, such as New York or Washington. If there  
4 was ever any truth to that, it is now clearly untrue.

5           Those same statistics show that the highest incidence  
6 of arrest of persons under the age of 25 occurs in the suburbs.  
7 Sixty-one percent, or nearly two out of every three persons  
8 arrested under age 25 were arrested in the suburbs.

9           This, then, is the enormous problem confronting us  
10 in the area of juvenile delinquency. As Attorney General, I  
11 truly wish that we had more allies in that struggle like the  
12 Boys' Clubs. Allies who understood that the secret of  
13 fighting youth crime is not building more jails and demanding  
14 harsher penalties, but engaging, as you have done, in  
15 emphasizing individual character development, fuller participa-  
16 tion in the mainstream of American life.

17           We in the criminal justice system can deal with  
18 youth only when all else has apparently failed. Both you and  
19 I have responsibilities that transcend our concern for the  
20 youth of America.

21           I want to move now to one other area.

22           You are senior executives of some of America's  
23 largest businesses, and I run the largest law firm in the  
24 world -- 3800 lawyers, as I've said, -- many of whose policies  
25 and practices affect your company's daily operations.

1 I would like to share with you my observations that  
2 in the area of government regulations, particularly, the  
3 private and public sectors can work together harmoniously,  
4 just as they do when the Boys' Clubs and juvenile justice  
5 agencies work together, to achieve mutually desirable ends.

6 Clarifying this regulatory role of government and  
7 reducing its negative side effects has been one of our top  
8 priorities because the Department of Justice has such a central  
9 role in the enforcement of such regulations, I have had a good  
10 view of this process, and I hope that I might -- can explore  
11 for just a short time that process with you.

12 The growth of business-related regulations --  
13 and, incidentally, I made a speech on this subject in Australia  
14 this summer. I made a number of speeches there, and most of  
15 them were on justice. And the one that the Australians liked  
16 better was about government regulations. They seem to have  
17 some over-regulation problems themselves.

18 The increase in government regulations, as you know,  
19 has been the greatest since the 1930s, following the Great  
20 Depression. But the last decade, in particular, has seen  
21 many new and expanded areas of regulations. We have new  
22 environmental regulations, occupational health and safety  
23 regulations, regulations prohibiting discrimination in  
24 employment, education and credit.

25 The total number of pages of regulations issued in

1 the past forty years by the government -- Federal Government  
2 only -- is approximately three-quarters of a million. And the  
3 Code of Federal Regulations, which some lawyers have in their  
4 offices, this year contains 60,000 pages.

5           Linked to all these government regulations are  
6 voluminous paperwork requirements. A recent government study  
7 concluded that present government paperwork requirements cost  
8 our society \$100 billion annually, of which \$43 billion are  
9 processing costs to the Federal Government.

10           I don't like to use figures, but I'll give you this  
11 figure, this figure of paperwork cost is equal to five percent  
12 of our current annual gross national product, which is --  
13 last week, I think, got just for the first time about two  
14 trillion. Five percent of the gross national product.

15           The objectives of most government regulations are  
16 sound. But we are now seeing that some of our reforms may have  
17 gone too far. We have promulgated provisions without  
18 reckoning the cost or truly understanding their full effects.

19           These excesses do not condemn the entire system,  
20 but they are exacting the cost that we are just now beginning  
21 to fully recognize.

22           These excesses have several manifestations. First,  
23 the complexity of our government regulations is astonishing.  
24 As I stated, the Code of Federal Regulations contains about  
25 60,000 pages. There are thousands of additional pages of

1 administrative interpretations and implementation of those  
2 regulations. The sheer number of the regulations is over-  
3 whelming, but their lack of clarity and conciseness is legend.  
4 Every evening in The Washington Star a box appears with the  
5 caption "Gobbledegook".

6 [Laughter.]

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Readers are invited to send  
8 in examples of tangled and tortured prose from government  
9 manuals for a small cash prize. The column never wants for  
10 material.

11 [Laughter.]

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Second -- and I think this  
13 is important -- these regulations have imposed high additional  
14 cost on American production. The 1975 Brookings Institute  
15 study on the effects of regulatory compliance in America  
16 estimated that such efforts cut the productivity growth by  
17 from 20 to 25 percent. We are only now beginning to calculate  
18 the toll which is extra cost of taking on the productivity  
19 competitiveness of American business.

20 And then -- this is the most important thing about  
21 regulations to me, as the Attorney General -- that's the  
22 complexity of the regulations. Businessmen, particularly those  
23 in the smaller enterprises, are simply unable to keep up with  
24 all the regulations applicable to them.

25 Major corporations have available large specialized

1 legal departments, to help them be informed and maintain  
2 regulatory compliance. But smaller businesses, lacking such  
3 resources, often ignore the regulations. Moreover, to many  
4 people many of the regulations are unnecessary.

5 As the chief law enforcement officer of the United  
6 States, I believe that it is serious when our laws are so  
7 burdensome, so detailed, that compliance with them is  
8 impossible for many people. If large numbers of our people  
9 begin to ignore our law, we will lose that cohesive respect  
10 of the rule of law which has so symbolized our country.

11 And I'm always reminded of the Roman Emperor  
12 Caligula, who was supposed to be the cruelest of all the Roman  
13 Emperors. It was said of him that he posted the law in small  
14 print and in high places, so that no one could know what the  
15 law was.

16 We want to be careful, in our country, to avoid  
17 that.

18 Now, on one other thing and then I'll give up.  
19 The President said to me, when he asked me to be Attorney  
20 General, that he would like to make the Department of Justice  
21 as independent as possible, as it could possibly be under the  
22 law. So I studied that at some length and concluded that  
23 the Attorney General is simply a person to whom the President  
24 delegates power, because the Constitution charges the  
25 President with the responsibility to "faithfully execute the

1 laws". There's no mention of an Attorney General in the  
2 Constitution, so you couldn't just set the Attorney General  
3 out with a roving commission to go about doing good.

4 But for about a year I pondered the idea of how to  
5 make the Justice Department into a neutral zone in the  
6 government. You know, foreign intelligence is an important  
7 thing to our country. And in the time of the foreign  
8 intelligence development, which was shortly prior to World  
9 War II, there's never been any partisanship in it. And I  
10 have the idea that that's the way the Department of Justice  
11 ought to operate. It ought to be a neutral zone, because no  
12 law is good law or sound law unless it operates under neutral  
13 principles.

14 So I finally got Professor Meador, whom I had  
15 recruited from the University of Virginia Law School, and who  
16 is an authority on the British Government, system of govern-  
17 ment, to study this matter, and he came up with an astounding  
18 thing. The British had something like Watergate in 1924. It  
19 was caused by a Cabinet officer -- they never proved it, it  
20 was alleged that a Cabinet officer spoke to the Attorney  
21 General, who is the Attorney General of England and Wales,  
22 about a prosecution, he tried to interfere with a prosecution.  
23 And the Ramsay MacDonald government fell on that account.  
24 Because the British have such a high regard for the law.

25 And from that time on, that was in 1924, no high

1 government official has ever been prosecuted by the Attorney  
2 General. The highest it goes in his office is to the  
3 Director of Prosecutions, who is a civil servant.

4 So I've started building on that idea, and what  
5 could we do? I fear Special Prosecutors -- we would have 20  
6 or 30 floating around the country at the same time, all running  
7 for some office --

8 [Laughter.]

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: -- and we ought to have a  
10 government that's good enough to organize in a proper way to  
11 handle cases. So I took the British system and built on it,  
12 and about a month ago we had a meeting with about a thousand  
13 lawyers in the Great Hall at the Justice Department. I  
14 announced my system to make the Justice Department neutral.  
15 And, in a few words, this is the way it operates:

16 We have these litigating divisions in the Department  
17 of Justice -- Civil Division, Criminal Division, Civil Rights,  
18 Lands, Antitrust, Tax -- and they are all separate divisions.  
19 And then we have the U. S. Attorney's offices all scattered  
20 over the land, 95 of those. And I have it set up where they  
21 make the final decisions on prosecutions on case handling, if  
22 it's a civil case, whatever it is. They report to me or they  
23 report to the two people directly under me, the Deputy Attorney  
24 General and the Associate Attorney General. We have the power,  
25 as the law provides to overrule them. But they make the final

1 decision. And if we do overrule them, we will make it public  
2 that we overruled them.

3 We would not deny anyone due process; we'll give the  
4 reasons.

5 I have already done that once -- I had done it before  
6 I put the system in, in the LTV-Lykes merger. The Antitrust  
7 Division ruled that they could not merge, and, after going  
8 into the matter at some length, I decided they should be  
9 allowed to merge, and I overruled them. And they were not  
10 too happy about it. And I said that we'd issue a press release.  
11 To let the public know that they had been overruled and that  
12 they objected to me overruling them, and I would give the  
13 reasons; and we did.

14 And the idea was that the public can judge the  
15 Attorney General. You know, if they're dissatisfied with the  
16 way I'm doing the job, then we ought to get another Attorney  
17 General. But you ought to let the public judge you. And  
18 that's the way we did that.

19 Now, that's the way we are going to do on all cases  
20 in the future.

21 The other thing we did, to make the Justice Depart-  
22 ment neutral, is that we will -- every head of a litigating  
23 division or every U. S. Attorney is under strict instructions  
24 to report to me any contact, if you please, by the White  
25 House or by the Congress about a case, other than just an

1 inquiry, a normal inquiry. If even an inquiry seems the least  
2 bit off base, they are to report that.

3 Now, we don't do that for other people, but -- and  
4 then I answer. Now, for other people, Cabinet officers,  
5 business people, whoever, if something seems a little bit out  
6 of order, they report that after the fact, but they go ahead  
7 and answer. There's a little difference there, but we thought  
8 the White House and the Congress would be the two places that  
9 were most sensitive. And so we have that in process, and  
10 that's already working well.

11 Now, this means that the Justice Department now is  
12 set up, as it should be: the President selects the Attorney  
13 General, and he can remove the Attorney General simply by  
14 calling you over the phone and ask you to leave. But he  
15 delegates to the Attorney General these responsibilities.  
16 And I have the authority under the delegation, so long as I'm  
17 there, to exercise the discretion. It's my discretion as to  
18 whether we'll prosecute someone, not prosecute them, whatever  
19 the case may be.

20 The President's remedy is to remove me.

21 Now, if we have a system like that, and if we have  
22 an Attorney General who does not need the job --

23 [Laughter.]

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: -- in the future, and if  
25 we have an Attorney General who does not seek another job,

1 our law will be neutral. And this will be good for our  
2 country. We'll make the Justice Department just exactly as  
3 we now operate the Foreign Intelligence Service of our country.

4 Now, one last thing and I'll stop. We have a  
5 person in Georgia we are very proud of, his name is Dean Rusk,  
6 he's a Georgian and he left and went many places, and when  
7 he retired he came back to Georgia, and he lives there, and  
8 he teaches there at the University of Georgia Law School, and  
9 he makes a lot of speeches. And he rarely goes out of Georgia  
10 to make a speech. He makes speeches all over Georgia, because  
11 he said he owes Georgia a lot, he thinks. We invited him back  
12 there, and he's happy.

13 But he never closes a speech without saying that  
14 "We ought to say something good for our country." And we've  
15 been through a period of time where we've stopped saying  
16 things good about our country, we have sort of fractionalized,  
17 and became quarrelsome.

18 And we are not like that any more. I go all over  
19 America. I speak everywhere. I'm going to Fort Worth, Texas,  
20 in the morning to make a speech. The spirit of our country is  
21 very good, now. Even between political groups it's good.  
22 There's nobody -- the Republicans, I see Mel sitting there --

23 [Laughter.]

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: The Republicans, they have  
25 helped the President more than the Democrats have, I guess,

1 when things are crucial. We just have a good spirit going  
2 in our country.

3 And I think that the free enterprise system is a  
4 large part of that. When I think about what you're doing for  
5 the Boys' Clubs and what a keen sense of social responsibility  
6 as businessmen and as leaders you have, it makes me feel good.  
7 And that's the way things are going all over our country, I  
8 think, and that's my word, as Dean Rusk would say, about  
9 what good is going on in our country.

10 I think it's in pretty good shape.

11 Thank you.

12 [Applause.]

13 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Attorney General, would you come  
14 back for just one moment, please?

15 We have a little remembrance to give you in honor  
16 of your occasion of being with us.

17 Originally we had planned to give you a pheasant  
18 feather picture, but Carl Stokes beat you to it.

19 [Laughter.]

20 THE MODERATOR: But we do have engraved "To the  
21 Honorable Griffin B. Bell" a lovely recognition from Boys'  
22 Clubs of America. And we thank you so much for honoring us  
23 tonight.

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Thank you.

25 [Applause.]

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

2 Well, ladies and gentlemen, ten o'clock is our  
3 adjournment time, we have just about come down the pike pretty  
4 much on time. I may not have to go back to the dungeons of  
5 the breakfast meeting after all.

6 We do thank you for your marvelous attention here  
7 tonight. I think we have had both a very educational and an  
8 inspiring evening.

9 And remember, when you go home, to love Boys' Clubs  
10 of America and, at the same time, don't forget your local  
11 Boys' Club needs a little loving, too.

12 Get involved back there. That's where it really is.  
13 Give them a little time, a little help, as well as you give  
14 it to all of us.

15 Good night and God bless you, and thank you again.

16 [Applause.]

17 [Whereupon, the meeting was concluded.]

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