

FOR RELEASE

9:00 P.M. SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1935. ✓

REMARKS OF
HONORABLE HOMER CULMINGS
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

at

THE WASHINGTON-CONNECTICUT DAY DINNER

HOTEL MAYFLOWER

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Saturday, May 25, 1935.

9:00 P. M.

The Attorney General said in part:

As I listened tonight to the generous words that have been spoken about me, I felt both proud and humble -- proud that these colleagues, associates and friends have paid me such gracious and stimulating compliments, humble because I know that I do not deserve them. As I heard these expressions I thought of what Bacon once observed, that the process of instruction through praise conveys, after all, less the thought of what one is, than the thought of what one should be.

There are occasions when my position calls upon me to speak and most of them are a source of pleasure to me. This occasion, however, is different from any of them. It arouses in me all of those intimate and delightful sentiments which one feels on gathering around a family board at a festive celebration. I see around me those who recall to mind memorable political struggles, some victorious and some not so victorious, but all of them glorious; of pleasant professional associations and of delightful social hours. These are the relationships of which the fabric of life is woven, and these relationships bind me to the hills and towns and villages of Connecticut.

I shall not soon forget the significant events of March 4, 1933. That fateful moment brought with it its own challenge to the wisest use of our capacities of which each one of us was capable. That was a time when the compulsions of the financial and economic crisis indicated the utmost need of prompt and courageous action. As our government and our people have sailed into somewhat calmer waters it has become possible to examine our course and to consider some of the rocks and shoals that lie around us and ahead. During these thrilling

experiences there is not one of us who has not felt a sense of real participation in a great common enterprise to guide the destinies of the United States toward the goal of a prosperous and normal life for all our people.

Under the terrific stresses to which a modern industrial State is exposed, and in the midst of the emotional overtones which beat upon our minds and our hearts as an aftermath of the War, all of us must realize that the search for truth, if conceived in a partisan sense, cannot but fail. After a not inactive participation in political life I hope I am enough of a realist to recognize that political motives and political considerations, in a popular Government such as ours, are inescapable. Nevertheless, let us attempt to achieve a broader perspective. Politics, after all, is but a reflection of the will of the electorate. If the oscillations of the pendulum of public opinion, which swings through no fixed arc and according to no mathematical interval, transmit themselves to legislators and executives, let us reflect, in the words of a popular broadcast, that time marches on and men march with it, and that there has never been such a thrill in marching as now.

Under the courageous leadership of that great captain of our progress, the President of the United States, let us put aside partisan disturbances and rivalries, let us realize ourselves as Americans whose fate is bound up in the preservation of those great national ideals which all of us love. Let us dedicate ourselves to those great principles to which noble men of the past of all political beliefs have devoted their lives and the preservation of which is now in our hands.