



ADDRESS

By

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Prepared for Delivery at  
A WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY PATRIOTIC RALLY

Under the Auspices of  
THE CIVILIAN MILITARY MANPOWER COMMITTEE

14th Regiment Armory

Brooklyn, New York

8:00 P.M.

February 21, 1949

It is entirely fitting and proper that this vast outpouring of Americans be here assembled in a noble and patriotic cause. It demonstrates that democracy's arsenals -- of which this 14th Regiment Armory is one -- serve as peaceful, friendly meeting houses where our problems can be freely discussed.

We know what is taking place today in some parts of the world, but here in America it is, indeed, heartwarming, satisfying and reassuring that we can carry on such great gatherings under the auspices of Civilian Committees. It is tremendously significant that our security rests not alone upon the military forces, but also upon loyal civilian activity.

This stirring manifestation of loyalty is appropriately placed on the eve of George Washington's birthday, and during the observance of Brotherhood Week, as well as National Security Week.

The immortal Washington was well aware that this Nation -- only an infant among nations in his time -- would become the Father of the World. Upon relinquishing the Presidency he uttered these prophetic words:

"With God's help I have lived to see the United States as one great whole -- a nation which may bid defiance in a just cause to any power on earth."

Here we are today of various strains and various faiths, united in a common devotion to keep aflame liberty's torch that he and his comrades lit in our own beloved land.

As we observe his birthday, it is well for us to pause and recall that the Father of our country in his time also faced perplexing, burning problems similar to those which confront us now.

We can all profit by emphasizing that in those early years, enemies both from without and from within beset the new Republic --- just as it is happening today. Too true, history in a way is repeating itself.

The powerful nations of the world then stood ready to prey on our commerce, to stifle our economic growth, and to grab our territory.

In a message to both Houses of Congress in 1789, Washington pleaded for an - "EFFECTIVE SYSTEM FOR THE MILITIA OF THE UNITED STATES." In terms that precisely fit our present situation, he said: "It is unnecessary to offer arguments in recommendation of a measure, on which the honor, safety, and well-being of our country so evidently and so essentially depend."

Then it was the militia --- soldiers on foot. Today, along with mechanized troops, it is the Navy and the Air Force.

More particularly, Washington urged for unity among his people. Divisive elements tore our land with inward strife. State was jealous of State, faith clashed faith, and race persecuted race. Those were really dark days in the life of the infant Nation.

Like a poisonous fog, intolerance and bigotry pervaded the land. Avaricious men grew fat on the miseries of their fellow men.

A great statesman, as well as a great general, Washington realized that the young Nation could grow in strength and take its place among the other nations only if these destructive elements were conquered.

He feared what was happening; therefore, he admonished his countrymen. He pointed out how small are the differences that form the basis for misunderstandings and conflict. He emphasized that love for and pride in our country must rise above selfish personal interests.

Today our detractors at home and abroad would undermine the very way of life that has made the United States rich and powerful beyond the dearest hopes and fondest dreams of the founding fathers.

They are jealous of our greatness, and fearful of our efforts to build a God-worshipping world -- a world wherein freedom and happiness shall prevail for all peoples, here and everywhere.

Our first President, I feel sure, would have been elated at this convincing evidence of our belief in his concept of the principles upon which our country is built. If he could step out of the pages of history tonight, I am confident he would repeat what he asserted in the struggling creative days of our Republic, as he fought to create the civil and religious liberties of the American people.

As our people have for 160 years heeded the deathless words of Washington, so should the world learn them and heed them. These principles would heal the world of many of its ills. I have mentioned some of the things he said. Those and others warrant and need repeating over and over again. Let us never forget them.

To the United Baptist Churches in Virginia and other Protestants, he wrote:

"\*\*\* Every man ought to be protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of his own conscience."

To the Catholics in the United States he wrote in 1789:

"I hope ever to see America among the foremost nations in examples of justice and liberality. And I presume, that your fellow-citizens will not forget the patriotic part, which you took in the establishment of their government."

To a Hebrew congregation in Rhode Island he said:

"All possess alike liberty of conscience. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES GIVES TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION, TO PERSECUTION NO ASSISTANCE."

Yet in shielding our liberties from the Godless storms of subversion that hurl themselves against our pillars of government we must be careful -- extremely careful -- not to slip into the habits and practices of tyrannical governments.

We must turn the spotlight on those who, without the foundation of fact, point the finger of suspicion against fellow Americans, or revile established cherished institutions.

Name-calling is un-American. Those persons who defame individuals, or segments of our citizens, or smear established institutions are playing into the hands of the vicious subversive who seeks to overthrow our government.

Our priceless freedom of expression must be eternally defended. However, intelligent vigilance is needed in presenting truth against error. The hooded order may be vigilant, but it is far from intelligent. Its hidden-hand and hidden-face activities tend to destroy the very things it pretends to protect.

Some of the things we hear, and some of what we read, aim to furnish a rather low opinion of our country and its public officials. Some think that faults alone should be brass banded.

America is not perfect. All patriotic citizens realize that there is room for improvement in all things that are human. But our country is not standing still. It is on the march forward and continues marching in the direction of peace, liberty and brotherhood under the leadership of that great American, Harry S. Truman. Yes, it has been going forward ever since the first pioneer began hewing a nation out of a wilderness -- and the hopes of a war-weary world rest on that continued forward march.

Let your mind's eye -- like that of a motion picture camera -- scan the history of our country from the days of Washington to the present. Picture

the challenges that we have met and the crises that we have overcome -- panics, depressions, internal strife, wars -- and world wars. Today we continue to forge ahead -- not like a flash in the pan -- but steadily advancing the cause of individual freedom and human dignity. And this, not for ourselves alone, but for peoples everywhere.

America remains a land of unlimited horizons.

Its people have boundless frontiers.

Over a hundred years ago a clerk in the Patent Office in Washington quit his job because he claimed he was wasting his time on a dead art. He was convinced that all the important things had already been invented.

As you know, between that date and the present time more progress has been made in America than was made in all the preceding centuries from the dawn of time. I wonder what that fellow would say if he were alive today, and saw atomic energy in action, or even airplanes zooming in the sky.

No, opportunity is not dead and democracy has not outlived its usefulness. Far, far from it. Our country is the people's democracy -- we must keep it so! And we will keep it so!

In the words of another:

"We must keep it wide and vigorous, alive to need of whatever kind, always remembering:

That it is the needs of the spirit that in the end prevail,

that caring counts;

that where there is no vision the people perish;

that hope and faith count,

that without charity, there can be nothing good;

that believing in the inherent goodness of man we

may meet the call 'to strive forward into the unknown with growing confidence.'"

Yes, we have been making progress — surely, even though sometimes it seems slow — toward that ideal of justice, liberty, and opportunity for all.

Under the Fatherhood of God, the Creator of us all, we can move steadily toward the goal of universal brotherhood. What we need to remember is the Golden Rule, which is inscribed, not in the law books, but in the hearts of men.

This infinite rule of conduct is really the basis of every outstanding world religion.

As we study history, we all learn the significant fact that whenever and as long as a people practice this Divine-like principle, they are happy and survive. When they cease to make it the guide of both their private and public lives, they perish.

An Anti-God totalitarianism is the opposite of the Golden Rule. It does not care what religious faith it persecutes.

So we have learned that when peoples in other parts of the globe are prohibited to read, write, speak, preach or pray without the consent of a Godless pagan state, basic human rights for humanity everywhere, including the United States, are threatened.

Science has made today's world one neighborhood. Our future is entwined with that of all peoples. The infamous rape of liberty and justice anywhere, whether it be in a Hungarian court or in a hamlet of our own country, is ultimately felt in the capitals of nations, and drags down the people in its evil purpose. In our outrage against Cardinal Mindszenty's trial, we must make certain that we shall never have a Mindszenty trial on our soil. Religious forces will never surrender to tyrannical-armed forces.

The aim of good government is the happiness of all. Justice, therefore, is the concern of all of us.

We long, yes, we pray for peace.

But this must be a peace where individual rights, human dignity and holy aspirations are recognized and protected. That is what all Americans under the leadership of our President are striving to achieve; and with God's help may that bright day dawn in our day and time for all the peoples everywhere on the face of the earth.