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THE SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD

AN ADDRESS

BY

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PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

BEFORE

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS

SHOREHAM HOTEL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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7:00 P. M.

It is a privilege to meet with you here tonight as you celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Federation of Temple Brotherhoods.

It gives me sincere pleasure to participate in the meeting of this great body - springing from a race as old as time. This organization binds men together, broadens their horizon through a National outlook, and strengthens their power for doing good. It gives the American Jewish laymen a means for carrying into life the ideals for which the Synagogue stands.

Twenty-five years of dedication to the renewal in the hearts of men of their allegiance to Jehovah is a cause for rejoicing. It is also a cause for profound gratitude that there are those - such as you - who recognize the deep spiritual needs of today - sincerely seeking the way back to divine truths. Truths that have in the past, and that will in the future, sustain men through every trial and tribulation as they have sustained you for untold generations.

These same divine principles make up the basic structure of the American ideal.

The ideal for which Americans fought in the recent war did not have its beginning at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, nor at the Battle of Yorktown or Lexington, nor at the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock, nor at the first settlement at Jamestown, nor even when Columbus discovered America.

That ideal is the result of man's unending struggle for freedom. Our basic document of human rights, the Constitution, merely reflects the struggles, the hopes and the aspirations of those legions who, throughout the centuries, were the victims of tyrannical governments.

When they drafted that document our founding fathers were most anxious to find some foundation of freedom - a guarantee of human personality that

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would withstand the cruel hand of tyranny, dictatorship, and abuse.

And so they first looked back across the Atlantic to the motherland with its Parliament. But they rejected that theory of government because if Parliament could give rights and liberties, then Parliament likewise could take them away.

They next looked to France where it was said that the rights of man were rooted in the will of the majority.

But this theory they rejected also for if these rights were subject to the fickle whims of a majority, then the rights of no minority were safe.

Unerringly they reached the conclusion that the inalienable rights of man are rooted not in the State, not in a Parliament, not in a majority, not in a dictator nor other human power, but in Almighty God.

Through the ages men have dreamed of and struggled toward the concept that nothing on earth is more sacred than human personality - that there is in the human soul a place which is inviolate, where no government or man may enter. But not until it became a part of our Declaration of Independence did this great concept of inalienable rights take on reality. Here for 171 years it has thundered forth its message to freedom-loving peoples everywhere.

The recognition and declaration that there are God-given rights - so inalienable - instill in man constant faith and hope, provide him with a Court of Appeals that is never closed - a law beyond the law - beyond the jurists - beyond the law makers. There is a higher law than mere man-made law.

Since the historic day when the framers of our Constitution wrote into that matchless document that the liberties of each of us are secure - inviolate - even against the government, itself, the three million people who then occupied the 13 colonies have been multiplied nearly 50 times.

The 13 colonies with their sparse populations spread along the Atlantic seaboard have grown into the world's greatest nation. No one faith, no one nationality, no one race can claim entire credit for this achievement.

The small band of men and women whom the Mayflower landed at Plymouth Rock on that bleak December day in 1620 had no idea, I feel sure, of the major role they would play in that great undertaking, the building of a mighty nation.

During those severe winter months half of the group perished. But, four months after the landing, when the Mayflower set sail on her return to England, only 21 men, 6 boys, and a few women remained behind. What a blessing they did not return to the homeland! You and I are here tonight because they did not go back. We would not be celebrating birthdays of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln if they had gone back.

Their spiritual courage and invincible fortitude drew others to settle in this new land. Boatload after boatload came - they discovered a new haven for freedom.

Since that far off day the eternal longing and quest for freedom, for the precious right to enjoy civil and human liberties, has brought to our shores millions of men and women of every creed, race, and culture. Most in their own way contributed to the building of this great nation where at long last the dream of the ages has grown into a living reality.

As we near the anniversary of the birthday of George Washington, the father of this country, it is appropriate to recall his description of the young government which he fought to set up. In a letter to the Hebrew Congregation at Newport, dated August 17, 1790, he counseled:

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"For happily the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens ----."

The counsel of Washington was sound then. It is sound now.

World War II was a battle for the soul of man against forces of bigotry and persecution masquerading under Nazism and Fascism. We won the battle. But the fight is not over. The fight for human liberty is never over.

The smoke of conflict had barely lifted when another bitter struggle arose between clashing ideologies - one holy - one unholy.

We are now called upon to defend our ideology of inalienable rights all around the globe - the holy one.

There is no other choice. We must be on the side of God.

We have tried the hermit's game and with what tragic results!

This time there can be no retreat into isolationism.

Humanity is indivisible.

Freedom is indivisible.

Justice is indivisible.

America's liberty is bound up with that of liberty-loving peoples everywhere. Our lives are so entwined with the lives of people all over the globe that anything which affects the welfare of one affects the welfare of all.

To help keep the peace - to stem the tide of a vicious doctrine that would destroy our way of life, we must actively and immediately assist those in need.

Roaming the face of the globe at this moment are thousands of victims of the last holocaust. They not only have been torn from the security of their

homes and families - they are faced with that last straw of insecurity - they have no country to turn to for aid and succor.

Can we Americans, who have realized our best loved security - country - home - work - family - under a flag that has flown throughout its lifetime symbolizing a haven for the persecuted, can we fail to heed their plea for help! If we do, that is a far cry from the brotherhood of man which would save the world from destruction and chaos.

It is most important to keep in mind always that these people are not merely problems. They are persons, like you and me, human beings of infinite worth.

In the practice of the Eternal Mandate to do good lies our greatest strength - our greatest protection.

Not in frowning battlements!

Not in huge armies!

Not in two-ocean navies!

Not in mighty air armadas!

These are all essential in a world of power-mad men.

In the final analysis our strength lies in a people who have in their hearts the love of liberty which the divine planted there - liberty that should be the heritage of all men all over the world.

The flame of liberty must be kept burning. If it ever flickers low, then despotism with its chains of bondage will again be knocking at the door.

The best defense always is an offense. The loyalty of all our people, in thought, in feeling, and in behavior, must be enlisted.

We must conserve and develop our human resources - we must see that all our citizenry are spiritually, mentally, and physically equipped to do battle for the cause of free men.

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Many of our individual and national problems can be solved only by an educated citizenry. Yet the slavery of ignorance still faces America.

To tolerate ignorance is to invite the alien propagandist. He could wish for nothing better than that our young people might grow up without a deep understanding of and an abiding faith in our way of life.

Recently through the Federal Bureau of Investigation it was learned that the Communists in this country have started a campaign to recruit our children to their ideology. The younger they are, the better. The Communists know, as did Hitler, that if they get the children today, they will have the nation tomorrow.

The task that lies ahead is not for the weakling. Yet here is something that should concern us:

Five million American children do not attend school. They do not have any opportunity to begin to learn the fundamentals of American life - this is due to teacher shortage and lack of facilities.

Such conditions not only are tragic, they provide the soil in which dangerous ideology takes root and flourishes. They must be eliminated.

They can be eliminated by an enlightened, awakened citizenry - awakened to the responsibilities and duties entailed in their citizenship.

To this audience it seems superfluous to point out the necessity for emphasis on duties. Nowhere in the Holy Law - as revealed through the Mosaic Covenant - is there mention of "rights." These great commandments - written by the finger of God - that we learn as children - set forth only duties to guide human beings' every thought and action.

We must never forget the underlying principle of our American ideology. There can be no right without a corresponding duty. This great truth must ever be the veritable ABC of our every-day life.

Any worthwhile crusade needs the right kind of leadership and support, such leadership as the Temple Brotherhoods furnish. In times of stress and travail our nation has always turned to those of our people who drew their strength from religion - from their belief in a God of all the people.

It is a shock, therefore, to learn then that more than 50 percent of our people do not belong to any religious faith.

In a certain large city, it was shown that 68 percent of the children and youth had no contact with any church organization, three-fourths of them did not know the Ten Commandments, and two-thirds never heard of them.

Yet a study of the early laws of New England reveals how closely the pioneers followed basic beliefs. The Ten Commandments became the cornerstone of their jurisprudence, and the Book of Psalms, their Book of Hymns. It is time to return to the faith of our fathers.

This is a challenge to our religious leaders. They must give millions of our people the strength necessary to face life's problems with courage and determination.

Religion is not merely a matter of Sabbath observance. It is of every-day concern. It can not be isolated from life's daily problems and relationships.

It reaches out into business, into politics, into the home, into all aspects of community living, and especially into one's behavior toward his fellow men - a sure and safe staff to lean upon - a never failing staff.

Religion is a dynamic force in every community in the war against hate, prejudice and bigotry - diseases that eat out the heart of individuals and crumble nations into dust.

Out of religion grows brotherhood - warming the hearts of men and lifting nations to greater achievement and glory.

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Our own revolution was won and America welded together with the spirit of self sacrifice and the common bond of brotherhood.

These simple virtues - spiritual in their essence - lent sturdiness and character to the men who carved a land of promise out of a wilderness.

Let us re-cultivate these virtues so that the moral fibre of our country may meet every test.

Let us have more and more organizations like your own, devoted to sound principles of brotherhood and to love of fellow men.

May they realize that the hope of the world for basic security reposes in the creation and maintenance of mutual trust and confidence among all people everywhere. May they toil together to acquire such trust and confidence and to dispel ignorance and fear.

We will then have friendship among peoples and amity among nations. We will become a generation of achievement, reaching our goal as missionaries of the gospel of world peace.

Today ominous clouds hang over the world horizon. Yet we should not despair - though some preach this pessimistic doctrine. A people grounded in the faith that sustained our founding fathers, nurtured on the ideals of liberty and tolerance, will not accept such disheartening philosophy. The philosophy of our great religions is one of hope and life-giving.

United as a people, recognizing our human weaknesses, yet trusting in the strength that comes from faith in God, we will meet the challenge of our age. We will surmount its difficulties.

We shall fight

For the right that needs assistance

Against the wrong that lacks resistance

For the future in the distance

And the good that we can do!