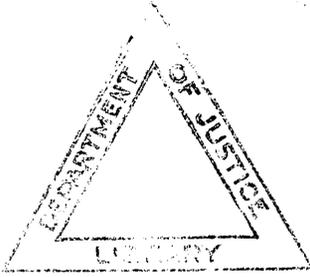


RELEASE UPON DELIVERY



AN ADDRESS

BY

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before

THE JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE CONVENTION

PRESIDENT HOTEL

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

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6:30 P. M.

It is a pleasure to participate in this second post-war National Convention of the Jewish Labor Committee which is devoting its energies to the happiness of mankind.

Since the dawn of history man has been constantly struggling upward toward the peak of individual liberty.

In the Book of Genesis we read that "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul."

This unbreakable link with the Divine has inspired freedom-searching peoples of all creeds and all races throughout the centuries in their ceaseless quest for freedom. Out of the longings, the sufferings, the hopes of the ages, a nation, dedicated to the principle of individual freedom was born and established 170 years ago on this Continent.

When this glorious country -- this haven of liberty -- was being formed, the founding fathers sought to secure once and for all a firm and enduring basis for human liberty. They wanted and demanded guarantees for the sacredness of human personality against the hand of dictatorship and tyranny -- they wanted most of all and demanded guarantees of religious liberty, the right to worship God -- and to worship Him as they pleased.

First the founding fathers looked to England for their model of individual freedom. In that nation, rights were rooted in Parliament. They rejected the English concept because if a Parliament could grant liberties and rights, then, likewise, a Parliament could take them away at will. The guarantee was worthless.

Next they looked to France where the rights of man rested on the will

of the majority. They rejected the French theory of government, because if rights are the gift of the majority, then that majority can take away the rights of the minority -- and this guarantee, too, was worthless.

After surveying the different systems of government, our founding fathers realized that the rights of man stem only from Almighty God -- not from any human power.

And thus with their recognition of this great truth, the sacredness of human personality -- the inherent, inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of human happiness became a fundamental part of the basic law of the land.

Originating in the Divine, it shall never be taken away by any human power -- here at home or abroad.

Since our beginnings as a Nation, Americans have worked, prayed, fought, and died to attain and maintain her ideals. We Americans today stand steadfast in our determination not to swerve one inch from this noble course.

It is difficult to realize that within only one generation we have fought two world wars that we might pass on to our children and our children's children the freedom we have enjoyed. And also to hold high the torch of liberty to light the way for peoples in darkened areas of the earth.

Natives of all the world have landed here in their search for liberty.

One such citizen, through whose efforts the dignity and worth of labor has received more fully the recognition it deserved, came from Great Britain. The spirit of that dauntless champion of the rights of man in the world of labor is here with us tonight -- it is the spirit

of SAMUEL GOMPERS!

It is comforting to all of us to know that William Green, Philip Murray, David Dubinsky, Matthew Woll, and a host of other labor leaders, backed by millions of workers, are holding high the banner for those who toil -- and are fighting and defeating evil forces that would destroy the very things upon which the worth and dignity of labor depend and prosper.

It is especially encouraging and heartwarming to meet with organizations such as the Jewish Labor Committee. Your organization gives aid to Jewish and non-Jewish labor institutions over-seas. It assists the democratic labor movement in Europe, provides relief for victims of oppression and persecution, and combats racial and religious intolerance here and abroad. Dedicated to these worthy purposes you recognize the inter-dependence of peoples, and the need to keep liberty's flame burning all over the globe. All of us have learned that if the flame is snuffed out in one place, the lights can go out in other places.

We live, move and have our being under the Eternal God whose fatherhood doth encompass us all. We share joy and sorrow, prosperity and poverty. Together we rejoice in the blessings of liberty, or suffer the burdens of slavery. We in this world are all brothers under God.

Labor's educational program, both here and in Europe, to alert its members against every totalitarian ideology, together with your efforts to promote racial understanding and good will, furnish a patriotic example for all of us to follow -- here at home as well as in foreign lands. Yes, the totalitarian would destroy everything dear to us. In essence -- this vicious ideology would, if it could, smash our precious American heritage.

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Our democratic form of government, functioning in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence, and of the Constitution with its Bill of Rights, has made it possible for our Republic to achieve the highest standard of living known to civilized man, and to become the wealthiest and most powerful nation on the face of the earth. In saying this, we do not point it out in a spirit of exaltation -- or braggadocio, or in an attempt to overlord other peoples and other nations.

Yet, day and night, subversives are circulating over the earth's surface, attacking the liberty of the people.

It is appropriate, therefore, since we are celebrating Brotherhood Week and National Security Week, as well as the birthday of the father of our country -- that we stress the need for a strong citizenship that will make us safe on all fronts.

In his day, Washington recommended such defenses.

Today, with the same thought, President Truman, our great human rights President, says:

"We can fulfill our obligation of service in the cause of peace only by maintaining our strength. The will for peace without the strength for peace is of no avail."

The time of this great meeting also comes close upon the birthdays of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, those two famous exponents of democracy and brotherhood. The efforts which you are making to promote racial understanding and good will would, I believe, have brought heart-warming satisfaction to our first President as well as to his successors, Jefferson and Jackson.

By written and spoken word, the father of our country missed no opportunity to contribute to the preservation of THE CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

To the Hebrew congregation at Newport, Rhode Island, he sent a message which, ever since that time, has seemed like a benediction, and a protection. Included in the ever-living words were these:

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES - GIVES TO BIGOTRY
NO SANCTION. TO PERSECUTION NO ASSISTANCE."

This bears emphasizing today, especially when we consider our displaced persons program. Some advancement has been made in this humanitarian cause, but much better results must be and will be achieved. It is regretted that up to now only a few thousand displaced men, women and children have landed in the United States. But it is a start. That is a far cry from the 200,000 that are permitted to enter under the law and a much farther cry from the 400,000 that we hope will find a haven on our soil.

Labor is to be commended for the aggressive fight it has made in behalf of those needy persons who were innocent victims of dictators' tyranny. And Mr. Dubinsky and the garment industry deserve high praise for furnishing employment to over 100 skilled workers who were among the first arrivals. I understand the industry seriously needs more of such skilled workers and about 1,000 others are now being processed for this employment.

Labor organizations make the best answer to the distorted anti-American propaganda abroad to belittle the notable achievements of great American trade unions. The communist falsehoods cannot take hold among the peoples of Europe because your magnificent deeds expose and refute their claims.

American labor's support of the Marshall Plan was proof to the worker in Western Europe that communist propaganda was all wrong. Your

establishment of an orphanage in Palermo and a vocational school in Paris, the loaning of generous funds to the Dutch transport workers so that they could re-equip themselves, your contribution to the Labor League for Human Rights, all have combined to bring hope to a forlorn world. Your help has been spiritual as well as material, and your good-neighbor influence has been felt all over Europe. Your answer to communism is better than bombs and bullets.

As we seek to help the displaced persons we must also be unceasing in our efforts to safeguard the civil rights of individuals in our own country. Thus far, we have had to rely upon only a thin thread of statutory authority, consisting of the scattered remnants of civil rights legislation of the post-Civil War period. This law is so vaguely worded that the courts have frequently been reluctant to see it applied to specific situations. Notwithstanding the legal and constitutional difficulties which have confronted the Department, to say nothing of the force of local prejudice when prosecutions have been undertaken, the Department has on many occasions sought to obtain for these statutes, through the courts, both in matters pertaining to individual rights and the rights of labor as a group, a broad interpretation of their application.

The report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, based upon an exhaustive case-by-case review of the work of the Civil Rights Section, has emphasized the weak statutory tools with which, in this field, the Department has had to work. It recommended, as you know, clarifying and enlarging enactments in respect to the coverage of the civil rights statutes and the machinery for their enforcement, the more important of which have been urged upon Congress by President Truman in his State of the Union Messages to the 80th and 81st Congresses.

Some of you present at this Convention have fought recently on the battle fields of freedom. There you learned that no artificial barriers separated men on the fighting front.

You fought to advance the cause of universal brotherhood and to extend the spirit of the good neighbor to all mankind.

You proclaimed America to the world as an example of what a free society can do for the individual and for a nation.

Never in the history of our country has it been so important that we live up to that example, and point the way to a better world -- one filled with understanding and friendship among men.

In peacetime or wartime, the Godless termites of democracy must find no hiding place in the hearts of our citizens. Our citizens want to send forth into the world rays of good will and happiness for all.

When the liberty and dignity of the individual are everywhere respected and protected, then we will have approached universal brotherhood.

In ancient days, gallant souls in noble succession were unjustly accused, and suffered for their faith. Today, in 1949, not in the distant past, freedom weeps as falsely accused individuals stand before courts -- courts supposed to be tribunals of justice -- from which they receive no justice -- only brutal injustice.

May God grant us the courage and the wisdom to combat these menacing Godless trends and to lead the stricken peoples of the world to justice and lasting peace.

The members of our armed services, who went forth to battle tyranny during the recent world conflict, came from all walks of life.

They were free men fighting for freedom.

We thought they won that fight.

But no, the battle is not ended! All of us must be determined to remain free. Religious faiths, without armaments, will never be supplanted by tyrannical forces bearing arms.

We must never allow communism, or any other subversive activity which makes criminal mockery of individual rights, to get authority over our liberties. Should we do so, freedom would vanish from the earth. And that will never happen as long as free men guard freedom's ramparts.

Yes, we are living in the most tense time in world history.

But we also are living in the most dynamic period of human experience.

History's pages are filled with accounts of nations crumbling in the dust. They took the lower road -- the route that detoured them from God.

We must take the Upper Road -- the high Road that leads to a more abundant life for all mankind -- that road leads to God.

In following the right way, we will reach an era of personal security and abundance such as mankind has never witnessed. We will also have international peace and world happiness.

The technology of this modern age -- this wonderful challenging age -- must advance and serve humanity, not wreck it. Your officials in Washington are determined that atomic energy shall be used for humanity's sake, and hope and pray that it shall never have to be used otherwise.

Builders, not destroyers, Americans will not fail a world yearning for harmony and peace.

With God's help, we will make the land in which we live better and more beautiful because we have been in it. We will make a growing America,

full of golden opportunities, become a country in which those opportunities are realized.

I, too, pray and urge: "Let us 'keep America the refuge of the oppressed, the hope of the despairing, the land of justice and opportunity for all.'"