



AN ADDRESS

By

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I am, indeed, happy to be with you tonight. That pleasure is increased because your invitation came from Dr. Earle Hawkins -- one who has fought the paralyzing of religion in human affairs and governmental relationships, and thereby is contributing much to the future of his country and the good of his fellow men.

It has given me genuine satisfaction to be associated with him for several years. He has taught me the application of the Einstein Theory -- not of relativity, but of success in life. If A is success in life, then the formula, according to Dr. Hawkins, is: A equals X plus Y plus Z. X is work, Y is play, and Z is keeping your mouth shut. I don't have enough Z.

It is heart warming to talk before this Presbyterian Social Union -- a body of clergymen and laymen dedicated to the promotion of a better acquaintance among the Presbyterian men of Maryland and to the development of a strong Christian fellowship among the churches. Your achievement in this noble work is a cause for gratitude and rejoicing. The world could use more of such friendship among men and churches.

Your first President, Dr. Daniel C. Gilman, who was a leader in spiritual understanding and academic education, was also the first head of Johns Hopkins University. It has been my good fortune to be one of the thousands of beneficiaries of that venerable institution. From Dr. Gilman's time to the present, your record of sixty years has been notable and impressive. At all times you have unceasingly stressed the verities of life.

Not many years ago, Woodrow Wilson -- a devout Presbyterian and an illustrious President of the United States -- addressed your group. He then hoped for a day when wars would be no more and the world would be safe for

democracy. He realized that humanity is indivisible and that we are all brothers under God. This humanitarian leader emphasized again and again the brotherhood of man -- a cardinal principle basic to the peace and happiness of our own people and to that of peoples all over the globe.

In the history of civilization, first one nation and then another has risen above its contemporaries to leadership in the world. The Assyrian, the Babylonian, the Ancient Greek, the Roman, and others rose to power only to decay and then be superseded by a new and stronger force.

The clock of history winds up tight in periods of world crisis, then it unwinds more slowly -- and finally runs down between times. Today we are at the highest tension before alarm. We seek to prevent it from sounding.

As we study the nations of the past, we find that each bore the torch of civilization along some peculiar path of its own and contributed to the world's culture and learning. Each had its ideal of power and its separate notion of progress. But each was directed by a central authority which was sustained only by armed force. Depending for security only on military might, each was ultimately overthrown by a stronger military power.

How different with the United States of America!

Our Nation was founded on religion -- not on lust for power.

Our people recognize that the true source of our strength is faith -- faith in God, and faith in the future.

Faith in God is the basis of religion; faith in order is the basis of science; faith in each other is the basis of brotherhood. Without these faiths there can be no warless world -- the crying need of today's people.

When our Founding Fathers drafted the Constitution, our basic document of human rights, they recognized in a democracy the possibilities of greatness

in ordinary people. To prosper, history teaches us, a State must be built on moral and religious character. The depth of this foundation will be the measure of its strength, and the only guaranty of its prosperity, permanence and peace.

These forefathers knew that it was not the number of texts you read, not the sermons you hear, nor the amount of religious conversation you participate in; but it is the earnestness in which you accept the truth of religion and make it a part of your being — of your moral code — that ensures your growth, and the prosperous growth of the Nation.

They therefore rejected the old theory of government by force.

Unerringly they reached the conclusion that the inalienable rights of man are rooted, not in the State, not in a legislature, not in a majority, not in a dictator, nor other human power. The framers of our Constitution were convinced that these rights stemmed from Almighty God.

And thus the American system has its roots of liberty and opportunity in something deep and permanent. The divine rights of man were indelibly recorded in our sacred documents. They became not merely a concept of government, but the foundation upon which our government was established and upon which it rests. These rights are as inseparable from our democracy as is the heart of man from his body.

We have not separated, and we cannot separate religious principles from our form of government. And we must never neglect their practice.

The words and the spirit of the Holy Scriptures breathe through every document that has helped to make our Nation great.

Our Nation has always turned to those who draw their strength from religion — from their belief in the God of all the people.

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. The Book of Psalms became their book of hymns.

With us, religion and democracy are synonymous. Without the application of spiritual ideals to democracy there would be no democracy. It just could not endure. Now, more than any time in our Nation's history, we need to continue in the faith of our fathers.

Religion and prayer must find more, and still more place in the arena of public affairs. In the words of the late Reverend Peter Marshall, Chaplain of the United States Senate, who was a member of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Citizenship: "There should be no politics in prayer, but lots of prayer in politics."

Bring up a people to be religious and their statesmen will translate that faith into the words of the Four Freedoms. They will conceive an Atlantic Charter. They will create a United Nations Organization. They will work, as our great American leaders are doing, patiently and tirelessly, to bring about enduring peace for peoples everywhere.

Religion is not something for Sunday observance -- for one day a week only -- or something to be used for special occasions. It is the whole of life -- with Truth in it and with God in it -- every day, every hour, every moment. It must be applied to every part of human existence -- to local affairs, to national, to world affairs.

The civilized world recognizes that the outcomes of the recent world wars have catapulted this Nation into a new and challenging position. The United States is now not only one of the leading world powers, but actually the foremost for the restoration of peace and economic security.

In these crucial days of world history, it is imperative that American institutions, particularly the church and the school, produce an ever-replenishing stream of conscientious, intelligent, and capable leadership — a leadership that is conscious of our traditions and well schooled in national affairs. Even more important today, we need a people thoroughly grounded in the affairs and problems of the world, and alert to our world responsibilities.

It is particularly essential that each of us know the history of our country and its basic institutions. Today more than any time in our Nation's existence, every citizen should have an understanding of our democracy and its way of life. Our first effective defense against destructive ideologies is an inventory of the valuables we have in our house — then we will know these possessions are worth defending.

We should not only emphasize the teaching of history in American schools and colleges, but also should insist that the teachers infuse into the lessons its excitement, its romance, and its drama. Far too much of this gripping story is gathering dust on library shelves.

In the study of national and world history we readily recognize the need for friendly relationship, not only to fellow Americans, but to all mankind.

Every day it dawns on us, more and more, that the world is a single neighborhood. Distance is no longer a barrier between people. Time and space have been dwarfed by science.

I drove to this meeting tonight in less than a hour. By flying I could have done it in less than ten minutes. Yet, in the beginning of our Republic a Presidential party enroute to the Capital became lost in the forest between Baltimore and Washington.

Yes, today the lives of our liberty-loving people are entwined with those of peoples all over the globe. Anything that affects their welfare sooner or later affects our general welfare. Two terrible world wars in one generation taught us that unforgettable lesson.

It is not only important to know peoples of other lands, but it is of greater importance to know how to work with them. You may own a priceless patent, but unless you have the "know how" the patent is worthless. Knowing peoples and how to work well with them helps to bring about understanding and cooperation among nations. And an indispensable instrument to bring about such necessary understanding is the United Nations.

The Charter of the United Nations sets forth its fundamental purpose in these words:

"To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

This is a statement of a noble mission. But we know all too well that this noble purpose of the Charter can become a living reality when, and only when, the leaders and their peoples everywhere clearly understand its purpose and what its fulfilment will mean to an anxious war-weary world.

I feel sure that the vast majority of the people in all countries share our own hatred of war. We want a lasting peace, contentment and security for our children and our children's children. This is also their great yearning.

Here in the United States we have the convincing and inspiring example of how people of every race and creed can live and work together in harmony.

We are a people from all the countries of the world -- originating from over 120 nationalities. We have been fused into one nation by our common faith in the principles upon which this country was founded. The great truth of people living together has been thoroughly tested in the laboratory of America.

Here we have the Irish, the British, the French, the Germans, the Russians, and the Poles. We have the Czechs, the Bulgars, the Greeks, and the Italians. We have the Turks, the Scandinavians, the Belgians, and the Spaniards. We have Negroes, Orientals, and others from all parts of the globe. All live side by side and in perfect peace. Thousands of words -- volume after volume -- could be written to substantiate this. But all one needs to see how democracy functions is to go to a baseball game in Washington.

Yes, if all these live together in one country, why can't all nationalities live together in one world? And there is where education must play its determining part in world affairs, as it played it in the building of our Nation from the days of Hopkins -- the Mark Hopkins who envisioned the school of tomorrow as he sat on one end of a log with a knowledge-hungry youth on the other end, and only the heavens as a roof for their improvised school.

I believe the time is nearing, if it has not already arrived, when there should be established a world university to which would come outstanding students of all the countries, to be educated in an atmosphere of truth and freedom.

I often surmise what would be the effect on future generations if enlightened men and women, upon returning home from such a university, would assume active public roles. Who knows what untold good for the world would result!

It may be that the world needs to share a set of enduring principles, just as simple and as truthful as those upon which our own glorious country was founded. Well could the world presently use the close association through which comes understanding of one another.

As we seek the idealistic goal of universal peace and brotherhood, we must remain active and vigilant in defense of our heritage. So long as there is even one nation on the rampage, led by evil men who recognize nothing but brute force, our country must keep strong -- yes, safely fortified.

We must never forget the example of our pioneer fathers. They went to worship with the Bible in one hand and a rifle in the other! Without the rifle, there might have been no pioneer! And without the pioneer, no nation!

But democracy cannot build itself on military might alone, and we do not intend to do so. Its noble role must be established on the broad basis of world friendship -- achieved through intellectual and spiritual understanding.

May we all toil together to acquire such a happy state and to dispel ignorance and fear -- hate and bigotry.

Achievement and faith have built us into the strongest peace-loving nation of all time, guided by courageous leaders of the past, and today by President Harry S. Truman, who lives, works and prays for peace.

United as a people, and trusting in the strength that comes from faith in God and faith in each other, let us join in this prayer:

"Lord, make us an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

With Divine help, we will continue to travel the Upper Highway toward the goal of Peace and Happiness for all mankind — for that is the Road our Nation has chosen.