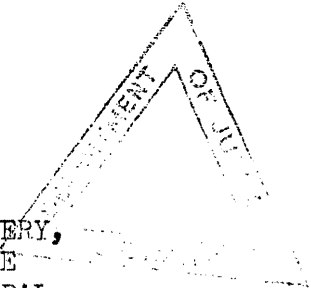


ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HONORABLE JAMES P. McGRANERY,  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, AT THE  
HONOR AWARD DINNER TENDERED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
BY THE AMERICAN CONGRESS FOR CIVIL, SOCIAL AND  
INDUSTRIAL ACHIEVEMENT, MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1952,  
7:00 P.M., THE BELLEVUE-STRATFORD HOTEL,  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.



- - - - -

As I greet you in my native city of Philadelphia this evening, my feelings are not unlike those that come in the moment of stillness when a golden sunset lights the western sky to mark the close of another day.

The gratitude that is in my heart springs first from ever new, yet age-old wonder at the eternal generosity of the Divine Planner who permits us to glimpse the beauty of creation -- and the kindness in the hearts of men.

There is in the very atmosphere of this magnificent gathering -- the warmth of true friendship.

To Reverend Brother Alfred whose consecrated life has been devoted to promoting the brotherhood of men under the fatherhood of God I am grateful for his graciousness in conferring a symbol of recognition upon one whose most treasured experience was the opportunity to be close to his serene and inspiring personality.

To the membership of the American Congress for Civic, Social and Industrial Achievement who, under the guidance of Reverend Brother Alfred, and under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Edward M. Walsh, have unselfishly labored during the years to unite industry, capital and labor under the spiritual standards of justice and charity -- my appreciation is an expression

of the gratitude of all the thousands of citizens whose service to country has made possible social and industrial peace. This award -- I know -- comes to me merely as a representative of the many who respect the laws of the Nation by daily application to duty.

To His Excellency, Bishop McCormick of Philadelphia; to His Excellency, Bishop Eustace of Camden; to His Excellency Bishop Leach of Harrisburg, I wish to express profound esteem and heartfelt gratitude for their honoring this occasion by their presence.

To the distinguished Chairman of the Committee, Hubert J. Horan, no tribute of my words could increase the stature which is his as a lawyer and as a public spirited citizen. Nevertheless, I wish to tell him -- and to speak to all the members of the Dinner Committee -- of my sincere appreciation for this evening's eloquent evidence of friendship.

I have been deeply moved by the gracious comments of Reverend Brother Stanislaus, President of La Salle College; by the heart-warming remarks of my distinguished colleague, The Honorable Joseph W. Henderson; and by the generous tribute of my associate, the distinguished soldier and statesman, General Walter Bedell Smith, -- who has left his post as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency where he is constantly in communication with every far-flung hamlet in the world -- to come here to Philadelphia.

As I glimpse the familiar faces of so many well-loved friends of Philadelphia and from distant cities, I wish that it were possible to greet and to thank individually each one -- who has made this occasion memorable.

The award which I have the honor to receive bears the name of the great Saint John Baptist De La Salle, whose Reverend Brothers are like their founder, -- teachers, scholars, saints.

Ranking among the foremost thinkers and educational reformers of all time, Saint La Salle's most characteristic quality was humility -- the spiritual ability to see all things in the perspective of truth. The congregation which he founded has become a continuing social force answering the temporal and eternal needs of every nation in succeeding generations.

His great religious order has consistently supplemented the training of the intellect with courses in ethics or moral philosophy, aiming at the full and harmonious development of all the natural faculties.

While stimulating scholarship in the sciences and the arts, the brothers of La Salle have kindled the spirit of faith, the "habit of mind by which eternal life is begun in us," causing assent of the intellect to unseen truth.

The progress of civilization, through true education sponsored by these religious and by other spiritual leaders and educators, has been largely responsible for holding back the tidal wave of irreligious materialism that has threatened to engulf the world at intervals in frequently recurring eras.

America's basic ideal of the equality of men enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, was the legacy of scholars who had gained spiritual perspective from their search for natural learning.

Yet today the world beyond our borders is more than half-slave and less than half-free.

Our nation has survived tumultuous decades only because her Government as set up by the Constitution and as guarded by the Bill of Rights, the sentinel of her liberty -- has never failed to recognize that the rights of her citizens come -- not from the state -- but from God.

World peace like domestic peace must be based upon the "tranquillity of order": nations and men alike must be guaranteed justice, mercy and love

in the brotherhood of man and under the fatherhood of God.

Respect for law -- for laws made by man and for laws eternally promulgated by God in the very nature of men -- is an essential factor in the attainment of peace.

The danger, which now threatens the republic we cherish, has its source in irreligion which incites men to hate: the explosive element that menaces even the continued existence of the human race.

Only the awakened conscience of mankind can prevent a total global conflict. Upon the morality of the individual, rests the survival of the many.

Hate, the off-spring of atheistic Communism, can be conquered by democracy, born of love; by a return to the spiritual ideals of our forefathers; by a reaffirmation of eternal principles; by loosing the shackles of greed for wealth and power.

The man who is at peace with himself is at peace with God, and has only good will for his neighbor.

Every citizen and every public servant has a duty to perform and he can perform it only with divine assistance.

When each day closes, and when another day begins -- the sun -- setting and then rising in the heavens -- is a radiant reminder of the familiar, re-assuring words:

"I can do all things in  
Him who strengthens me."