

AUTHORIZED ADVANCE OF LINCOLN DAY ADDRESS OF HAROLD E. STASSEN DELIVERED AT THE LINCOLN DINNER SPONSORED BY THE REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, February 11, 1948.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

We meet to honor Lincoln. A thousand thousand speeches have been made in his memory. But none has approached the power and the depth of his own. A million million words have been written about him. But none have reached the strength and inspiration of his own.

Truly he gave from his rare fusion of granite-like determination and uncommon cushion of mercy a depth of humanity to our America which is its most precious asset. His spoken words, as candid as mirrors, need no interpretation, permit no evasion. Their diamond-like quality is as evident in a new setting as in their old.

Lincoln said, "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. . . This expresses my idea of democracy. . . Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy." This is a gem for meditation today by the leaders of every nation in the world. In thirty-three words it pierces the evils of both communism and imperialism. In one broken sentence it expresses both the goal to be sought and the danger to be avoided in carrying out the Marshall plan. In one brief statement it measures our progress and points up our shortcomings.

It is of grave importance that our country draw afresh from the eternal wisdom of Lincoln's words in these critical years of conflict of ways of life. We must say again and again to the peoples of the world, Americans will not be slaves, and Americans will not be masters. Americans are not, and do not claim to be supermen. They do believe that they have a super way of living. It is the way of individual freedom for men and women. It is the way of freedom in their economic and social and political and religious lives. We do not seek to impose it upon others. We are willing to help others to attain it. We recognize that tyranny and oppression and persecution anywhere in the modern world is a threat to freedom of men everywhere. We proclaim that the successful adoption of this free way of life by others does not mean subordination to America. It means independence from America. It means independence from domination by anyone.

Lincoln's address at Edwardsville, Illinois on September 13, 1858, has a stirring basis in this same basic concept of human liberty which could well be pondered by the leaders of the Kremlin in reference to their internal policies and their program in the Balkans.

Lincoln was speaking of the negro. The words apply to all men. He said: "When you have put him down and made it impossible for him to be but as the beasts of the field; when you have extinguished his soul in this world and placed him where the ray of hope is blown out as in the darkness of the damned, are you quite sure that the demon you have roused will not turn and rend you? It is not our frowning settlements, our bristling seacoasts, our army and our navy. . . Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prized liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands everywhere."

The degree to which our country acts in accordance with the eternal principles of human liberty, in the face of the vast injury to physical and mental and moral resources lingering in the wake of war, will measure our success in true leadership in the world.

As I see our current scene in America, the statesman who best applies to world problems the concepts of Lincoln, is the Honorable Arthur Vandenberg. His insistent search for "peace with justice", has had a great impact on our nation's foreign policy. He opposed, and in some measure corrected the unilateral imperialistic flare included in the first presentation of the Truman Doctrine. He contributed to the development of the sound humanitarianism of the Marshall Plan. He has faced and overcome with firmness, but with tact and skill, narrow opposition within our own Party and limited vision in the opposing party. He is today engaged in the constructive reshaping of the Marshall Plan to place it on a practical and businesslike basis without the miserly loss of its essential mercy. In the face of shortsighted opposition within our Party he has retained his poise and his balance. He merits and needs support from the rank and file within our Republican Party for his leadership. He will receive it.

And in that support I believe Lincoln's party, our Republican Party, will be carrying on in the best of its own tradition. It will be measuring up to the challenge of world conditions, it will win through in the clash of ideologies. It will prove again that man was meant to be free.



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