

File in H.H. Speeches

THE NEEDS OF THE TIMES
Macalester College Convocation
October 16, 1945

I urge students to enter into political life - be part of the community. Many people live off of the community without adding anything to it. As a teacher, I told students to give to the community - give of ideas to the point where it could be called leadership.

War is over and the victor has been decided. This country is going to have to give leadership. The power we had in war is essential in peace. Peace is not merely the cessation of hostilities. Peace can be just as dynamic as war itself. Maintenance of peace is a continuing struggle.

Many changes have taken place in the world. This world has had 6 years of destructive war. In a changing world, we must understand needs before the war. Ten years prior to the war was a great depression - period of dictatorship - private enterprise was moved aside and the world went into a period of dictatorship. There was a lack of planning and leadership. During these ten years and prior we went into economic isolationism.

Life is not a bed of roses today. Future is not bright. Conferences at Yalta, Teheran, Quebec, Bretton Woods indicated that people were beginning to understand the necessity for unity and international organization. We cannot live alone. We are dependent. This country was caught without plans on V-J Day. Need cooperation with other countries. There is now difficulty between America and her Allies in spite of a sense of understanding during the war. Difficulties are coming

into focus. During the war period we did not have time to understand our Allies or enter into the problems of peace. We ought not to be too dismayed because we do not agree on everything. Ought to prepare ourselves for a long period of disagreement and find out what the other fellow is doing and thinking about. Have to have patience and forbearance, to study and analyze. We have lots of differences right here at home. Have to be willing to know and respect each other in these times. Have to have willingness to see other fellow's point of view. Other fellow is convinced by persuasion and fact. We cannot expect great international conferences to work without a hitch when we know there are disagreements on all levels. Our problems in Europe today are greater than ever before - economic, political, agricultural, health, etc. The Polish people have suffered as no other people have suffered. In Russia, 60% of the industrial areas have been demolished - they have lost between 15 and 16 million people - cities have been destroyed. Russia stands today as a mighty military power but the other part of Russia is weak. One country in Europe has stood fairly well during the war - that country is Norway. She had deep rooted Democratic traditions. Was able to re-establish her government more readily because Norwegian people never lost their love of democracy.

Great strides were made during the war - in aeronautics - today at Wright field they are demonstrating planes that need no pilot - jet propulsion, etc. Rocket bombs and atomic bombs were discovered. What is the secret of the atomic bomb?

There is no secret. There is no inventive idea that one nation can long guard. We had better do something about this age in which we live. The atomic bomb is a challenge for world government. There again is a rising tide of isolationism. We are talking about closing out immigration - talking about no longer lending money to other countries. Our economy depends on economic status of other countries - Britain, etc. All depends on other fellow. Cannot live alone.

Government today has no set policy as to disposing of Surplus Properties. Some policy should be set up and continued.

Unemployment is a major economic problem and a major political problem. Will be a deciding factor if Democracy can continue as strong system of government. People are not going to go without work in an economy they know has plenty to go around.

Ought to go to college to learn how to live. Must get an education that will help plan for the future. Need college trained people in the labor movement - people who will rise to positions of leadership in this field - those who are interested but who have also prepared themselves mentally. Labor is a strong factor today.

We need today socially conscious businessmen. Wages cannot be way down and prices way up. Labor disputes are too often settled by attorneys. They ought to be settled by labor and management representatives in conference.. During the war, the working man and the industrialist learned how to get along together in this area. This situation is still bad on the national scene, however.

More and more we find that people are working for a wage or salary rather than entering a profession. Young people today can make a great contribution to this field.

Housing situation now is very critical - there is the need of 15 million new homes. Need for urban redevelopment. Need for people who go into engineering who have a social consciousness. Need city planning.

Democracy has to do everything to strengthen itself. Harness river power - control erosion - improve hospital facilities - improve educational systems - public works. We need to be morally strong, politically strong, and economically strong. Today we are living in a competitive age. Democracy needs a plan. We must think about tomorrow. We need to train young men and women for Congress, to be Council members, etc. The core of Democratic government is local government. If that government isn't strong, honest, efficient no government can be. We need young people in this local government. We need people who understand Democracy - who will fight for Fair Employment practices, who will fight for full employment measures, who will develop the potentialities of every community. We must get these people out of the colleges of America. It is imperative to have good men in office. There is a big field in public administration for those who do not care to enter into politics. We need people today who will devote themselves to government full time, not just as a side-line. Need for integrity and those who will live up to public trust. The American people are fed up with political "bunk". This age demands men who will try to think clearly and face the facts. Every teacher ought to be able to

speaK the truth - not just something he has read. This country
must pfovide the greatest opportunities people have ever had.
Teachers and students must search out the truth.

Chardeen S. H.
10-17-45

Mayor Humphreys.
Minneapolis Minn.

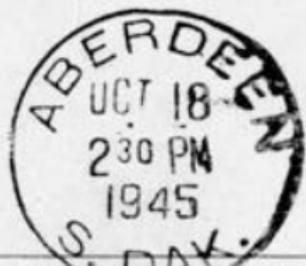
My dear Mayor Humphreys:
May I
commend you on your
excellent stirring address
at convocation Tuesday
on the radio. It was
one of the best I've heard
in years. Everything
you said I second.

If a copy is
available I would
certainly please me
to receive one.

Thank you.

Very sincerely,
Mrs Regina Gange
St Luke's Hospital
Chardeen S. H. A. S.

Act.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mayor Hubert Humphrey
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

October 22, 1945

Mrs. Regina Gange
St. Luke's Hospital
Aberdeen, South Dakota

Dear Mrs. Gange:

Thank you for your card commending my talk at Macalester College Convocation last Tuesday. It was nice of you to write and I do appreciate receiving your card.

I am sorry that I do not have available a copy of the talk as I spoke extemporaneously. However, we are preparing a memorandum covering the main points of my talk and I will have a copy of that to you within a short time.

Sincerely yours

Hubert H. Humphrey
M A Y O R

HHH:rt

1



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org