

Excerpts From Remarks
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of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
at
Stephen Wise Award Dinner
Honoring Senator Herbert H. Lehman

Senator Herbert H. Lehman is the finest expression of the spirit of civil liberties in the United States Senate today. His human compassion, his respect for the dignity of every individual, and his sensitivity to injustice wherever it exists has endeared him to freedom-loving men and women all over the world. We gather here this evening to join with the American Jewish Congress in paying tribute to this great American. In true perspective, however, it is Herbert Lehman who honors us with his presence, his noble dedication and with his life's works. The privilege of serving with him in the United States Senate is one of the great blessings of my career.

It is appropriate and fortunate that the good Lord designated this era as the one in which Herbert Lehman was to enrich the human race. Our American society is again demonstrating that it can survive the temporary aberrations and emotional fits of irrationality that occasionally threaten the liberties of our people and the great democratic traditions of our founding fathers. In the last four years we have gone through such a tragic period. It is clear

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that an emotional balance, stability and steadfast clearness are asserting themselves once again in the American body politic. We must continue to be alert, but I am confident that those of us who identify ourselves with American liberalism and with the preservation of civil liberties will once again prevail. This transition is in no small measure due to the heroic, rock-like and fearless qualities of leadership displayed by Herbert Lehman on the floor of the Senate and in the arena of public opinion. His voice was the voice of the American conscience and he raised it so loudly and so clearly that it was heard and it is being heard today. Herbert Lehman is indeed the example of what true leadership must represent if our democracy is to survive. That it will survive -- and in this I have no doubt -- is because Herbert Lehman helps to lead us today.

5/11/55

Read over the telephone to Mr. Gary - DI 7-5445 6:25 PM



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