

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND GRAM SWING AT SPECIAL DINNER FOR  
BY OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB, MARCH 24, 1964.

RECORDING DATE MARCH 11, 1964

*This is Senator Hubert Humphrey speaking, by recording  
from my office in Washington, D.C.*

I am deeply honored tonight to share with the Overseas Press Club of America in honoring ~~one~~ of its most revered members, Raymond Gram Swing on the occasion of the publication of his book Good Evening.

I remember other books from other years by Mr. Swing: How the War Came, Preview of History, and In The Name of Sanity--books from which I derived much pleasure and profit. But the title "Good Evening" evokes a volume of memories even before I have seen it. For years, from the late thirties, throughout the war, that nightly signature of Raymond Graham Swing, opened for millions of us the best channel we had to news and commentary on the world, at the highest level of intelligence and accuracy.

American journalism and American Broadcasting have come a very long way indeed since that period between the wars when a combination of neglect and indifference kept us insulated from the world and the immense forces that were abroad in it. For that enormous change in interest and for the equal revolution that has taken place in competence of gathering and reporting

of world wide news, an invaluable debt is owed to Raymond Gram Swing.

A less persevering man would never have made it. Swing was on the job before World War I, even if he was not heard much until the eve of World War II. Frankly I was a little young to know about those early years except by reading about them, but it has been an inspiration to me. It would have been disillusioning if not heartbreaking to most of us to have filed fundamental, vital stories from Germany on the eve of World War I, or to send back vital intelligence information from France after our entry <sup>into the war</sup> only to have the information ignored, delayed, or buried on the inside page. Even as late as 1931 ~~was~~ a carefully documented scoop that Great Britain would leave the gold standard was not printed due to editorial ~~caution~~ back home.

But through it all, in season and out, Raymond Gram Swing was digging out the information in detail, reporting it in depth, studying whatever subject he needed to know, from economics to history, to get it straight.

Finally when American did want to know, and when broadcasting was willing to venture into the new field of news analysis, it found a superbly equipped man with more than twenty years of seasoned experience. We are just extremely fortunate, that's all, that this indispensable form of communication got started off at such a high level/ of standards.

Swing combined knowledge with understanding, intelligence with responsibility, and objectivity without blandness.

*But broad culture has not been all he has done.*

There were the books I have mentioned. There has been the work for the Council For Democracy, and Americans United For World Government, and many other public service and educational enterprises. There has been time also to keep up an accomplished technique on the piano and to be a musical composer. This adds up to a real tour de force for one who worked habitually 12 hours a day to do one 13 minute broadcast a day, five days a week, year in and year out.

But it testifies to the energy, breadth of scope, and dedication which have made indelible hallmarks on his profession. All of us have to shoot a little higher than we would have thought of doing otherwise. A benchmark of excellence has been set.

The Overseas Press Club and all of its guests tonight honor themselves in honoring Raymond Gram Swing. As we read Good Evening, we shall hear it too, in the memory of many, many nights when it was our most important link of observation and insight on the most momentous events in all history.

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