

Rev
Clugy

Cong Price
Mr Speaker
Gov Kerner
ambass Stevenson

Jul Schweitzer

REMARKS BY
Mr. Caffon

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

100TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S SECOND INAUGURAL

MARCH 4, 1965

As President of the Senate, I bring you greetings today from that body.

It was 100 years ago today that Abraham Lincoln stood outside this Capitol to receive the oath of office for his second term and to deliver a memorable unforgettable inaugural address. Four years before, at Lincoln's first inaugural, the setting had been an unhappy one.

Sharpshooters with rifles stood on watch at the Capitol windows. General Scott was ready on Capitol hill with troops and cannon. The unfitted sections of the Capitol dome lay scattered near the inaugural stand. In 1865, at the second inaugural ^{which} we commemorate today, the end of the war was in sight. Some sixty years later, Representative Sherwood of Ohio rose in the House of Representatives to tell how he came from battle as a weary Union soldier to witness that inaugural.

L This is Congressman Sherwood's Account:

"There was no general platform. There were no reserved seats for Congressmen or anybody else. We were all standing up. There must have been 20,000 people in front of the Capitol. Lincoln stood there on the East Front, on a little platform with a little stand and a glass of water. He had a white pocket handkerchief around his neck a tall, spare man with deep lines of care furrowing his cheeks; a sad face, a strong face, the face of a man of many sorrows; a face lit up with the inspiration of a great soul as he voiced in prophecy the ultimate destiny of this nation."

Abraham Lincoln stood on that inaugural platform as the leader of the most powerful military force in the world. His theme that day was not military victory; it was not revenge, wrath or bitterness. Abraham Lincoln prayed for the passing of war. He asked for malice toward none, with charity for all. He asked for binding of the nation's wounds. He called for a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

He was a strong man - yet, a forgiving man
A man of Compassion.

We owe this nation's life to Abraham Lincoln.
To repay that debt we can do no less than to be
guided by his greatness and his compassion. It is
the strong who can be peaceful. It is the free who
can be generous. We will not be diverted from the
wise course set for us 100 years ago today. We are
all witnesses to Abraham Lincoln's pledge. *It continues to be
our commitment to humanity &
with malice towards none -
with charity for all
with firmness in the right.
"God gives us to see the right"
and remembering humbly and gratefully
~~to~~ now, as then, that America
is the last best hope on earth!*



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