

Statement of the Vice President

Tree-Planting Ceremony

It is fitting and proper that we should also celebrate the 75th birthday of our Inter-American system by planting this cutting of a fig tree from the house of the great Argentine educator, writer, and statesman, Domingo Faustino Sarmiento.

Like Horace Mann, he conceived of education as a process not only to help man to adjust to his environment, but to improve his own condition. He was a personal friend of Mann whom he visited in Boston. Many of the ideas evolved in the course of the conversations that took place there had great influence in the evolution of public education in Argentina, Chile and other South American countries.

Sarmiento would be happy today to see that education is one of the great pillars on which rests the edifice of the Alliance for Progress.

The Argentine Republic, as well as all the freedom-

loving peoples of the Americas can take pride in this citizen of the Hemisphere, who, long before the Alliance, defined the meaning of his life in these words: "A million owe it to me, in part, that their children have been saved from the most grievous afflictions of life, destitution and hunger. There were thick bandages of ignorance and barbarity on the people and I tried to pull them off; I heard noise around me, the noise of still-unbroken chains, and I joined with those who were striving to shatter them."

ADDRESS OF
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
DURING THE CEREMONY OF PLANTING OF A TREE
DONATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARGENTINE
IN THE GARDENS OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

April 14, 1965

(text as delivered)

Mr. Chairman and our good friends who have gathered here in this lovely forenoon: When you see the flag of the Republic of the Argentine, and see the sun in its majesty and its full warmth, it is indeed a great privilege to be here. Mr. Ambassador and Mr. Chairman, the President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson, would want me to say how happy he would be if he could be here at this particular moment, because our President is deeply dedicated to the inter-American system, deeply dedicated to economic and social progress, not only here in the United States, but throughout the world. I might add, he would love to be here because this is a garden. Mrs. Johnson, our first lady, and the number one beautification exponent of the United States of America, is a great admirer of this garden. She is helping to make this great capital city of ours literally a garden, and there are no more beautiful gardens than these gardens that are here at the House of the Americas. We are so grateful to all of you for what you have done to make the city so lovely and so much a beautiful capital.

Mr. Toastmaster, I have just a very few words that I want to say in response to your eloquent message. I only regret that I am not able to understand every word of Spanish, but I get some of the words. When you talk about freedom, when you talk about the people, when you talk about the Republic, and when you talk about the Americas, the message gets through. I think I have what you call "simpatico", we understand each other. (Applause). And how fitting and proper it is that we should also celebrate the 75th birthday of our inter-American system by planting this cutting of a fig tree from the house of a great Argentinian, an educator, a writer, and a statesman, Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, a great man!

Once again, may I say how appropriate and fitting it is that this country where you are presently residing is dedicating so much of its energies and its resources to education, to equal opportunity, to banishing from our midst once and for all racial intolerance, prejudice, and discrimination.

I want to have that placed on the record; that the inter-American system that we herald today is not just a political system, but that it is an idea about mankind, and that idea knows no color, knows no race, knows no creed, in the sense of discrimination or bigotry. What it knows is human dignity; what it knows is respect for one another; what it knows is a firm allegiance to one God and God's children, regardless of race, color, or creed. That is what this inter-American system means more than anything else. And as I look about this audience and see people here, of different races, creeds,

national origins, and ethnic groups, I say, what a happy, beautiful day this is! Is it any wonder that God, in His heaven, will have this sun shining down upon us and warming our bodies, as your hearts and minds are warmed today from this experience! (Applause).

This great Argentinian, this gentleman, and educator, and statesman, Domingo Sarmiento, was like Horace Mann, a great educator. He could see that education is a process not only to help man to adjust to his environment, but to improve his own condition. He knew that education was the key to the storehouse of opportunity and the better life. He was a personal friend of Horace Mann -- the inter-American system was thus working a long time ago -- whom he visited in Boston, and many of the ideas developed in the course of those conversations had a great influence on the evolution of public education in Argentina, Chile, and other South American countries. Sarmiento would be mighty happy today to see that education is one of the great pillars on which rests the edifice of the Alliance for Progress. I want my friends in the Argentine to know that Sarmiento was present yesterday at the White House, when the President had that reception for the members of Congress and for the educators of this nation, commemorating the passage of this great federal education act. Sarmiento was there in spirit because his life was that of an educator.

The Argentine Republic, as well as all the freedom-loving peoples of the Americas, take pride in this citizen of the Hemisphere. We want to claim him too. You see, long before the Alliance, he defined the meaning of life in these words: "A million owe it to me, in part,

that their children have been saved from the most grievous afflictions of life: destitution and hunger. They were thick bondages of ignorance and barbarity on the people, and I tried to pull them off. I heard noise around me; the noise of the still unbroken chains, and I join with those who were striving to shatter them." Wonderful words! And even this day, we are shattering those chains of ignorance, and illiteracy, and intolerance, and of misunderstanding. I say to you, my dear fellow Americans, that is what we must work to do. Strike off these chains of bondage, of tyranny, of poverty, and illiteracy, and disease, and make possible the fulfillment of the dream of Domingo Sarmiento, of Horace Mann, of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson. Let us dedicate our lives to it. Thank you.

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Mayor Brantt -
 Mr. Eiler - Deputy Chief
 Ernest Rutter - SPD
 Brantt 3 hats
 Gauninger Mayor Brantt
 the SPD
 Candidates for Chancellor
 Election Sept - 5 mo -
 Recent troubles | Bavaria
 Bundestag | loss
 Crescendos of threats | 2015
 Staunch leader
 Defender of freedom
 Nato allies on alert

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*Opportunity
C. J. 1910*

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