

Da  
Congressman - Rostenkowski  
Congressman Roman Pucinski

Governor Kerner  
Mayor Daley

ADDRESS OF VICE PRESIDENT

HUBERT HUMPHREY

POLISH ALLIANCE-CHICAGO

MAY 2, 1965

Chas Rozmarik

Mrs. Frances Dymek  
Send Maczek  
Wah check

X Yesterday William King  
Jamerson

Law Day  
Citizenship Ceremony

New Americans of many  
lands.

L <sup>one</sup>

No nation has a unique claim to America,  
but no people have a greater claim or can claim  
greater contributions to our America than those  
who came here from Poland.

L

From our earliest beginnings, America --  
our country -- has benefited from the wisdom, the courage,  
the guidance, and leadership of the Polish people.

L

We share great heroes like General Thaddeus  
Kosciusko and Casmir Pulaski -- men who have been  
heroes in battle, fighters for human rights and

Kosciusko

(X)

May 3, 1791 - Polish Constitution  
Tomorrow 174th Anniversary -

Parliamentary Humanitarianism + Tolerance.

Secret Ballot - rule by majority  
Popular Sovereignty - Will of the People.

almost same  
time as  
ours.

dignity, battlers against tyranny -- tyranny  
of the mind and spirit as well as of the body.

Polish music  
Polish Art  
Polish traditions

As Americans of Polish descent, you  
share the strengths of two great peoples.

Many of our democratic American traditions  
have their parallels in Polish history of a  
thousand years. For most of that time, Poland  
has been an independent Christian nation.

Though there are those today within her boundaries  
who would ignore, and indeed, destroy those  
traditions, we know that the spirit of the  
real Poland will flower again.

President Kennedy said, "Poland's claim  
to independence and liberty is not based on  
sentiment or politics. It is deeply rooted in  
history, in culture, and in law -- and

no matter what pressure the Soviet may exert, we do not intend to see that claim abandoned."

↳ We are convinced that time is on the side of freedom -- that is, if we put time to good use.

↳ We intend to build bridges to the Polish people -- bridges which may now be obstructed <sup>to them</sup>

~~at the other end~~ but which will be there to ~~be~~

*Stronger than the bonds of friendship  
between America and the Polish People  
close when the day of freedom dawns*

*Bridges of Art  
Literature, Medicine  
Trade*

↳ The fire of liberty ~~has~~ not dimmed in

*Polish love America  
Polish love their  
Nation!*

Polish hearts ~~and we must help sustain~~ *that fire*

↳ As President Johnson has said: "We know

the unswerving dedication of the Polish

people to the goals of liberty, equality and

independence. That is why our policy is extended

to help the Polish people, so that they may  
increasingly help themselves."

↳ Last fall, I spoke here of one act of  
friendship and fellowship of the United States --  
intended to cement our good relations with the  
people of Poland. It was an opportunity which  
we did not miss.

↳ Under legislation sponsored by Congressman  
Zablocki and myself, the United States has  
contributed more than 10 million dollars for the  
construction of the children's hospital at Krakow.

↳ I am proud to say today that this hospital  
and research center will be dedicated sometime  
this summer. The children of Poland will know that  
the United States has real love for the children  
of God wherever they are, and that we are determined

↳ to wipe out misery and disease wherever

we can.

↳ Now, let me turn to an important,

immediate problem which needs your attention

and help.

↳ Four successive Presidents of the United

States have called attention to serious defects

in our existing immigration laws.

↳ Now before the Congress is a bill which

puts the principles of basic immigration laws

in line with our basic ideals as a nation and

people.

↳ This legislation calls for the elimination

of the national origins quota system. That

system is incompatible with our basic American

tradition.

*This bill seeks to put into practice our ~~principles~~ words about freedom + human dignity.*

*a bill offered by  
LTK.  
now  
LTS*

*We have  
been  
enriched  
by the  
New Americans*

↳ All of us are immigrants or sons of  
immigrants.

↳ Throughout our history the newcomers to  
our shores have brought us new energy and vitality.

↳ Do we still offer welcome to those who would  
come to America to build a better life? Under  
our present immigration law, we do not.

Our present immigration law is a bad law.

The national origins system has four major defects.

↳ First, it is inhumane. It has kept families  
divided. Elderly parents of many of you have  
had to wait for admission under a national quota --  
often a very small national quota discriminating  
against people in Central ~~Eastern~~ and Southern Europe.

↳ Today a man can bring in a domestic servant  
from any one of several countries, but not his own  
mother from others.

*Yesterday  
Janetown!*

2 L ~~Secondly, the national origins system~~ *our present immigration laws*  
deprive us of people with valuable skills.

3 L Thirdly, it embarrasses us in our international relations. It seems to say that we regard a great majority of the people of this earth as inferior to others.

4 L Fourthly, and most important, it goes against our own basic commitments and ideals. It is a flaw which we owe it to ourselves to correct.

L So I ask you today -- in keeping with the very best of democratic traditions -- Polish and American -- to throw your wholehearted support behind this legislation. We need your help.

Let your voices be heard in this effort.

L *ds* This immigration bill is just one more step toward our achieving a Great Society for all Americans.



Great Society

and,

A Great Society, a just society, is possible for America. And the Great Society is not just one of material goods. It is a society in which every man will have the opportunity to achieve his full potential.

Jobs  
Health

Edus

Better  
Cities.

Better  
Living

yes

Some will squander that opportunity.

Some will let it slip away. But at least every man should have the opportunity to make freedom and dignity ~~real~~ realities in his life.

< That is the meaning of the new immigration

bill which needs your support. That is the

meaning of the Great Society. That is the

meaning of 1,000 years of Polish ~~history~~ <sup>history</sup>

That is the goal of American life.

Defend Freedom

let us work together to preserve that

meaning and to achieve that goal.

I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the U.S. & to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation, Under God, With Liberty + Justice for all.

TRANSCRIPT

Address of the Vice President

Polish Constitution Day

Chicago, Illinois

May 2, 1965

Distinguished reverend clergy; his honor, the great Mayor of the great city of Chicago, Richard Daley; members of the County and City government, State legislators, my good friends of the Congress, the Congressmen from the district in which this great gathering is being held -- Congressmen Dan Rostenkowski whom you all know well, Congressman Roman Pucinski. Danny and Roman invited me several times to be ~~here~~<sup>here</sup>. They promised me that with your intercession and divine providence and the Mayor of Chicago all working together, we'd have good weather, and we have it. Congressman Pucinski, who I trust is with us here today, and Congressman Ed Derwinski, my good friends are all here on this great day to commemorate the Polish Constitution Day, the 174th anniversary of a document of freedom -- a document of liberalism -- a document of humanitarianism -- a document of parliamentary government -- a document of majority rule -- a constitution of liberty for a great people. What a beautiful day it is to celebrate that memorable event of May 3rd, 1791 -- Polish Constitution Day. (applause)

May I pause for a moment in behalf of our country, in behalf of freedom-loving people everywhere, to pay our respects

to a great soldier, to a great patriot of his own land, and to a fighter for freedom second to none. Of course, I refer to the distinguished soldier and patriot that has addressed us here today, General Marczek, who has graced this platform by his presence and by his words. (applause) The world will never forget this great general was commander of the famed Polish First Armored Division which took part in many of the most important battles of World War II, and every battle was an honor to the general and his troops. And then, may I once again pay my respects to these distinguished statesmen who have come here representing the Assembly of the Captive European Nations. They're fine people, and Mr. Rosmary ~~K~~(X), the citation and the medal you've received today is a high honor. I cherish in my office a plaque which I received a few years ago with the flags of the captive nations of Europe -- a plaque which was an expression of appreciation on the part of those people for some work in the Congress of the United States which I was privileged to perform. So may I once again express my gratitude to these valiant, courageous lovers of freedom who have done so much for each and every one of us. And I want also to pay my respects today to the many fraternal organizations that are here -- the Polish fraternal groups, the Polish veterans and the many veterans organizations that are here on this memorable day; and above all, may I say a word of happiness and good cheer to the youth, to the young people, because as Mrs. Humphrey and I had those few moments to witness a part of your parade, we

were once again thrilled by the young people -- their health, their vigor, their vitality. (applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to talk today a little bit about our citizenship as Americans. I want to talk to you a little bit about our responsibilities as a people and as a country, because this nation of ours, as Mr. Rosmaryk (?) has indicated, has tremendous responsibilities today. Charles, I want you to know how grateful I am as Vice President of these United States to hear your words in support for the President, for the Congress, for the policy of the government of the United States, as we defend freedom in Southeast Asia and as we resist the most brutal form of terrorism and the most unbelievable and insidious form of subversion and aggression that this nation has witnessed in all of its life, by the Communists in that area. (applause) And lest there be any doubt, let me remind you of the words of President Johnson in that memorable address at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore just a few weeks ago, when he told us that we will not be defeated, we will not withdraw, we will not tire, we will defend freedom and we will not sell out or sell away the liberties of others and call it peace. That lesson has been learned in this century. There is no peace for anyone, nor is there any freedom for anyone, if country after country -- little countries -- can be sold down the river into tyranny and into slavery. Freedom and peace are indivisible, and we have no intention, my fellow Americans, of withdrawing from

the struggle, of seeking an easy truce or peace at the price of principle and freedom. (applause)

Yesterday, Mrs. Humphrey and I were at Williamsburg, Virginia and at Jamestown. Jamestown, Virginia represents the first English-speaking settlement in the United States -- 1607. There we were privileged to participate in the ceremony of new citizenship for about 200 immigrants that had come to our shores to become American citizens. And what a wonderful experience it was. What a glorious day. It was beautiful like today. And there they were, young people in the main, people of every race, creed and nationality, people from Poland, people from Eastern Europe, people from the northern countries of Europe, from Asia, from Latin America, from Africa, from the Middle East. There they were taking that oath of allegiance to the United States of America. It was an exciting experience because I saw my country and our country strengthened. No one nation has a unique claim to America, but no people has a greater claim or can claim greater contributions to our country, to our beloved America, than those who came here from Poland. (applause) All one has to do is to look at that statue, to look at that memorial to a great patriot, General Kosciusko, one of the great fighters for freedom, one who helped America, and then we know that the people of Poland have made great contributions to our land.

From the earliest beginnings, America -- our country -- has benefited from the wisdom, the courage, the guidance, the

the leadership of the Polish people. We have benefited from the art and the literature and the beautiful music and the skill and the craftsmanship and the statesmanship and the love of liberty of the Polish people.

We share great heroes, as I've said, like General Thaddeus Kosciuszko and General Pulaski -- men who have been heroes in battle and fighters for human rights and human dignity, battlers every one of them against tyranny -- battlers against tyranny of the mind and spirit, as well as tyranny of the body politic.

As Americans of Polish descent, therefore, you share the strengths of two great peoples. Many of the democratic American traditions have their parallels in Polish history of a thousand years. Think of it -- a thousand years. (applause) Might I add, that great constitution that we commemorate today of May 3rd, 1791, came to the Polish people only two years after our own constitution. This above all proves to me that a good idea is a powerful weapon. And the good idea of American freedom and independence penetrated every land within a very few years after the adoption of our constitution. That constitution of Poland, dedicated to parliamentary government, had much of its inspiration, my fellow Americans, from our constitution -- we the people of these United States.

For most of that period of a thousand years, Poland has been an independent Christian nation; though there are those that today within her boundaries would ignore, and indeed destroy these traditions, we know that the spirit of the real Poland never dies, and we know that the spirit of the liberty-loving

free Poland will flower once again. (applause)

Our late and beloved President Kennedy said these words: "Poland's claim to independence and liberty is not based on sentiment or politics. It is deeply rooted in history, in culture, and in law -- and no matter what pressure the Soviets may exert, we do not intend to see that claim abandoned."

Ladies and gentlemen, those words of a departed President who loved Poland -- those are the words of America today, just as truly now as then (applause).

We are convinced that time is on the side of freedom -- that is, if we put time to good use -- if we put time to good use and do not abandon freedom.

We intend to put that time to good use, and we're doing it here today. We intend to build bridges to the Polish people -- bridges which may now and then be obstructed at the other end, but which will be there to be cleared when the day of freedom dawns. We intend to build bridges that strengthen the bonds of friendship between America and the Polish people, and I say to Frances Demek (D), as she read the resolutions here today, we intend to expand our programs of cultural exchange, of contact with the people of Poland, because, make no mistake about it my friends, Poland is not Communist (applause) -- Poland is Polish, loving liberty (applause). Poland is a friend of the United States, the likes of which I've never seen elsewhere and I've travelled in that country and know of what I speak (applause). The people of Poland love our America, and the people of Poland

love their nation, they love their history, and I wish my voice could go to the people of Poland -- we love you too, and we stand with you, good people of Poland, for your days of freedom (applause).

The fires of liberty are not dimmed in Polish hearts. The fires of their nationalism and their independence -- they burn brightly. We must help sustain that fire.

As our own President Lyndon Johnson has said only recently: "We know the unswerving dedication of the Polish people to the goals of liberty, equality and independence. That is why our policy is extended to help the Polish people, so that they may increasingly help themselves." These are the words of your President.

Last fall, as has been indicated here today among the introductions, I spoke here of one act of friendship and fellowship of the United States -- one act that was intended to help cement our good relations with the people of Poland. It was an opportunity which we did not miss.

Under legislation sponsored by some of your own very distinguished Representatives, such as your own Congressman Pucinski, and with the help of your own friend, Danny Rostenkowski, and others, the United States -- and I should add Clem Zablocki who was a power in this from the great state of Wisconsin -- the United States has contributed more than 10 million dollars for the construction of a modern, beautiful children's hospital at the great university city, Krakow in Poland. (applause) What

a different symbol it is, my friends, to the Polish people than that of a statue of Stalin or someone else. My friends, that hospital will stand there as a living reminder to the people of Poland for generations yet to come that America believes in people and human dignity, that America believes in and stands up for freedom and human life, and the hospital will remind them of that (applause).

I am proud to say that this hospital and research center which I had something to do with will be dedicated sometime this summer. The children of Poland will know that the United States has a real love for the children of God wherever they are, and that we are determined to wipe out sickness, crippling misery and disease, wherever we can. We care not what be the nationality or what regime they may live under. Where there is a child that is in need, America wants to be of help, and that's what the hospital means. (applause)

Now quickly let me turn to another matter where we need your attention and your help. Four successive Presidents, President Truman, President Eisenhower, President Kennedy and now President Johnson, have called attention to the need of revising our immigration laws., pointing out the serious defects in our existing immigration law.

Now before the Congress is a bill -- a bill which was put before them some three years ago first by President Kennedy and now by President Johnson -- which puts the principles of basic American immigration law in line with the ideals and the commitments of this nation and its people. It's a bill that is

humanitarian, a bill that is fair.

This legislation calls for the elimination of the national origins quota system, because that system is incompatible with our basic American tradition. This bill seeks to put into practice in the law the words that we think about freedom and human dignity.

After all, all of us are immigrants or sons of immigrants, and I think the main reason that America is so strong and so rich and so interesting and so vital is because there is in this land the blood-line of many people, many cultures, many faiths, many traditions -- all of them like you with their identity, but all of them, may I say, with one common purpose -- to serve the United States of America and what it stands for (applause).

Throughout our history the newcomers to our shores have brought us new energy and new vitality -- never new problems, never weakness. Do we still offer welcome to those who would come to America to build a better life? Under our present immigration law, we do not.

Our present immigration law is, to put it bluntly, a bad law. The national origins system has four major defects.

First, it is not humanitarian. It has kept families divided and broken. Elderly parents and relatives of many of you right here have had to wait years, sometimes wait until they were no longer alive -- wait for admission under an outmoded, unfair national quota -- often a very small national quota discriminating against the Eastern and central and Southern European people.

And I submit to any fair-minded man, that the people of Eastern Europe and central Europe and Southern Europe have contributed as much or more to America as any people in our rich land.

(applause) Today a man can bring to Chicago a domestic servant from any of the several countries, but he can't bring his own mother or his own father or his own brother to live here and to enjoy in those last few years of their lives that have been filled with such pain and anguish -- to enjoy a little of the happiness that the younger ones could provide. And my goodness, couldn't we make them happy if they could just join us here in America. (applause)

Secondly, our present immigration law deprives us of people that we need, people of great skill and professional ability. There's always room in America for people that know how to do things. There's always room in America for people that are ambitious, people that want to work, people that have pride and skill and self-confidence.

Thirdly, the present immigration law embarrasses us in our international relations. It seems to say in bold type that we regard a great majority of the people on this earth as inferior to others. And surely in a nation that believes in equality, that kind of law has no place on our statute-books.

Finally, and most important, this present law goes against our basic commitments and ideals. It is a flaw, it is a blight, which we must remove, and we owe it to ourselves to correct.

So I ask you today to help us -- in keeping with the very best traditions of our democracy -- I ask you, Polish and American, to throw your wholehearted support behind President Johnson's new immigration bill, so that America can hold her head high. (applause) Let your voices be heard.

This immigration bill is just one more step toward achieving what you and I know we can achieve -- a better America, the Great Society for all Americans. A great society is a just society. It's a kind society, and it is possible for America.

The Great Society is not just one of more goods and bigger bank accounts. It is a society in which every American, regardless of race, color, creed, ~~and~~ <sup>region (?)</sup> ~~or~~ national origin will have the opportunity to develop his potentiality and his ability to a maximum. And it's to that proposition that present day America is dedicated. The key word, the theme of these days in your America is opportunity for all -- equal opportunity for every American. I know that there may be some who will squander this opportunity. There may be some who will waste it, some who will let it slip away. But at least every person should have the opportunity to make freedom and dignity realities in his life.

This means better education for young and old alike. And we're going to give it. We're going to provide it. There will never be a time again in America when a person who wants to have an education will be denied it. We have resolved to permit

every American to develop his mind to the maximum, and how rich America will be and how powerful it will be when that goal is achieved. (applause) And Mr. Mayor, Mayor Daley, following your leadership, we intend to help America make better cities, better places for our people to live, not only places where people can work, but cities that are worthy of the people within them, cities that are beautiful, cities where the laughter and the joy of children is evident and can be heard. A degree of kindness and security for the elderly, and opportunity for everyone. This is the meaning of our new immigration which needs your support. This is the meaning of the Great Society. This is the meaning of a thousand years of Polish history, a thousand years dedicated to the great concept of freedom and justice.

My fellow Americans, as I leave you today, I remind you of the pledge that every one of you has taken a hundred times -- at least your children have. When we look at our flag, and as our youngsters go to their schools, they are called upon time after time to repeat, as an affirmation of their faith and their loyalty to this Republic, what we call the pledge of allegiance. These young people, and most of us older people, repeat it almost, I'm afraid, without thinking through each word. We say, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands." And then these words, "One nation, under God, with liberty and justice

for all." Not two nations, not North, not South, not East and West, not city and rural, but one nation, one people, under the majesty of divine providence. With a recognition that our rights and our liberties are God-given and God-ordained, and that it is man's duty through law and through custom and through tradition, to uphold those God-given rights and protect them. The rights of freedom of speech and freedom to assemble and freedom to petition, the rights indeed and responsibilities. Of social order and obedience to law, of respect for law and of responsibility for our actions. And finally, in those words "with liberty and justice for all."

Liberty -- what a precious, precious gift. Remember freedom is never free and liberty only belongs to those who can defend it and love it. And justice for all means just that. If it is not justice for all, it is justice for none. And whether it be colored or white, Catholic, Protestant or Jew, whether it be big or little, rich or poor, justice means what it says -- to do justice and to be kind and to walk humbly with thy Lord. Thank you.



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