

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' DINNER

March 25, 1966

You know, of course, the demands upon my

calendar. President, Fulbright, Geo Murray, Moore

The only possible solution is to establish priorities and to determine which speaking engagements most clearly serve the national interest.

But I know that, interesting as all this is to you, you came here tonight expecting some hard news.

Well, I am prepared to oblige.

↳ Tonight, for the first time, I will make public a number of communications -- sent to me by prominent people -- which came to my desk on my return from Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

I hereby request you to testify before the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee. *and*

what about that White House invitation?

J. William Fulbright

Your hard thinking and straight talk are
squelching the squashy-minded cocktail
circuiters here in Washington.

Joseph Alsop

Amigo -- you are right. We should have
known more about China.

Fidel Castro

◁ When I came home last night I found a fox
in my chicken coop. It is wonderful to have
more animals on the family farm.

Robert Kennedy

↳ Your trip to Vietnam was illegal,
unconstitutional and in violation of the
United Nations Charter.

Wayne Morse

How do you get to travel? Who is your tour
director?

Nikita Khrushchev



Have you thought of a compromise candidate?

I hereby offer my services as President of

 a united Vietnam.

Nkrumah, The Great Redeemer

What's all this about Humphrey's war? I
thought it was my war?



~~~~~



Bob McNamara

We disapprove of what you say, and we  
defend to the death our right to criticize  
you for it.



~~Women Strike for Peace~~

Finally, tonight, let me add a serious note:

The author Thomas Wolfe, in the 1930's,

note this:

"To every man his chance, to every man  
regardless of his birth, his shining golden opportunity  
-- to every man the right to live, to work,

to be himself and to become whatever thing his  
manhood and his vision can combine to make him  
this... is the promise of America."

~~In the years since we~~ have come a long way  
toward realizing that promise. ~~We have still not~~  
~~fulfilled it.~~

and shall

~~But~~ we never cease trying. ~~May we never cease~~

~~trying.~~

For millions

For today, ~~for literally billions~~ of people in

this world, the promise of America is also their

promise.

~~To~~ Today our flag, as Woodrow Wilson once said,  
is truly the flag of humanity.

I believe that the promise of America -- and  
of all men -- will be fulfilled. Thank you.

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