

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

COLUMBUS DAY DINNER

ITALIAN-AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOC.

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

OCTOBER 12, 1966

- World without
- Leonardo -
- Michelangelo -
- Toscanini -
- Pope John
- Pope Paul
- Cardozo

I know of no better way to observe Columbus Day than to join you in honoring my good friend, Meade Esposito.

We have all read about the scholarly theory that maybe Columbus did not discover America after all.

How many in this room believe this new theory?

The next thing we'll hear is that DiMaggio couldn't hit or that Toscanini couldn't read music.

Columbus discovered that a man could live his dream. He discovered that one man with courage could make a majority -- even when he stood alone.

↓ Like the Statue because he fought his way up

~~NO GUILT BY ASSOCIATION!~~

↳ His discovery of the New World made men everywhere realize new facts about themselves: Namely, that rigid dogma, ignorance, narrow-mindedness and prejudice blind men and keep them in chains.

↳ Yes, Christopher Columbus symbolizes a great truth about the human condition: Man is limited only by the boundaries of his own imagination and the courage of his own resolve.

↳ This lesson has been taught to us by hundreds of thousands of people who have ^{Come} emigrated to our shores and who have enriched our national life.

↳ Almost ~~five~~ four million Italian immigrants have come to America in this century. They came in search of a brighter future.

↳ And they have found what they had been looking for. In the process they have become our leading bankers, contractors, artists, businessmen, teachers, athletes, labor leaders and government officials.

And they have enriched our music, art and architecture.

Columbus Day reminds us that all of us in America are immigrants, or the sons of immigrants.

Last year, you will recall, President Johnson signed a new immigration bill that ends -- once and for all -- the discrimination against those who wanted to call our country their home.

Under the old system even Christopher Columbus would have had little chance to come here -- simply because he was an Italian.

Under the old system Italy had a very small immigration quota. It had a very long list of persons waiting to come here, while other countries were failing to fill the large quotas assigned to them.

Our new Immigration Act assigns quotas on the basis of equality. It does not ask where a person was born, but rather: What can you bring to America?

Italy was granted 9,987 immigration visas in fiscal year 1965. In 1966, under the new law, Italy received 24,967.

∟ We did not pass this new law to court the votes of any nationality groups. ∟ We passed it because it was right -- morally right, and in the best interests of all of the American people.

∟ This generation of Americans -- perhaps more than any other -- is trying to live up to the promise of our democratic ideals.

∟ We are trying to create a society that is just and humane, enlightened and free.

∟ We are trying to extend the boundaries of opportunity to include every community and all of our people.

∟ We are trying to pass on to our children better advantages than the ones we possessed.

∟ We are trying to do whatever we must to make life happy and useful and filled with the blessings of peace.

↳ We are trying, in the words of Pope Paul, to "create a world that is more humane by promoting the common good for all."

↳ Yes, we are trying ... and we are succeeding.

↳ History is a good teacher. And we have learned the lessons of recent years. ↳ We know now that we cannot be indifferent to the fate of our neighbor.

↳ We see that our national problems are not the other fellow's -- but are equally shared by us all.

↳ Poverty affects us all. Welfare programs are costly and keep tax rates high. Unemployment and lower consumer spending restrain the overall economy.

Racial prejudice affects us all. Freedom and opportunity are truly divisible by the number sharing in it. As long as there are men living without hope in overcrowded slums, there will be chains on us all.

↳ We cannot be indifferent. ↳ We cannot be complacent.
We cannot let the voices or actions of a few extremists

im bitter us or close our minds and hearts to the plight of others.

↳ A great American, Wendell Willkie, once said: "It is not tolerance that one is entitled to in America. It is the right of every citizen in America to be treated by other citizens as an equal." ~~th~~

↳ America in the 1960's is at the turning point in its quest to develop the most enlightened and humane society the world has ever known.

↳ We are now working, in unity, to right past wrongs.

↳ Think back to the turn of the century when many of your grandfathers arrived here in New York from the Old Country. How difficult life was.

↳ Yes, to our shame, there was discrimination against Italian-Americans in those days. ↳ And against Polish-Americans, Greek-Americans, German-Americans, and all the other nationalities that came to their new land.

↳ And think back just to yesterday -- when we were forced to worry about providing care for our parents in their old age, wondering whether we could afford the expense of the doctor bills we knew would be coming.

↳ This was injustice, too. And it too is being eliminated.

We are all concerned about inadequate schools and transportation, crowded cities and wasted resources.

↳ These too are injustices, ~~affronts to the richest and most productive nation in the world.~~ But these problems are ~~being eliminated too.~~

↳ Equal opportunity ... urban renewal ... Medicare ... aid to education ... the war against poverty ... conservation and beautification ... these are the tools by which we hope to construct a Great Society.

We possess the means and, I believe, the will to ~~achieve~~ *overcome*
all of these -
Man has always dreamed a very simple, uncomplicated

dream.

↳ He has asked only for freedom to be an individual ...
for the chance to develop his skills and talents ... for the
opportunity to provide for himself and his family ... and for
a life of quiet satisfaction and dignity.

↳ Yet, fully two-thirds of the world has never been able
to realize this fundamental desire for the good life.

We must face the fact that two-thirds of the world
is poor, hungry and sick and demanding something better.
The have-not peoples are marching onto the stage of history.

And nobody can ignore them or move them off.

The challenge is clear: We must help those in the
world who need our help. And we, in our own land, must
succeed in living up to our own promise.

For if we fail, what hope may others have of succeeding?

Four centuries ago, Christopher Columbus lived his
dreams. Near the end of his full and rich life, he wrote a letter
to his son that sums up much of what I have been saying here
tonight.

"I have seen the wonders of the world," Columbus wrote, "and I have seen that man is not a helpless, inconsequential creature at all. Man is the greatest wonder of all, and he may dare to hope that human folly and pettiness will be expunged by the greatness of his eternal soul."



#

INTERNATIONAL RECORDING GUILD - STATEN ISLAND 14, NEW YORK - Gibraltair 2-8262

1 ITALIAN-AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS MEN'S
2 ASSOCIATION, INC.
3 ANNUAL AWARD DINNER
4 HOTEL ST. GEORGE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
5 OCTOBER 12, 1966

6 MR. JACK P. ZANGARA, President of the
7 Italian-American Professional and Businessmen's Ass'n.:
8 And, now, Ladies and Gentlemen, Msgr. Genova, who is
9 the Monsignor belonging to the parish of our guest of
10 honor, Meade Esposito, will render the invocation.
11 Msgr. Genova.

12 RT. REV. MSGR. VINCENT O. GENOVA, Pastor,
13 Holy Family R. C. Church: Almighty and Eternal God, we
14 humbly ask Your blessing on this distinguished gathering
15 and in particular on the guest of honor, the Honorable
16 Meade L. Esposito, the recipient of the annual award
17 bestowed by the Italian-American Professional and Business-
18 men's Association. It is very proper to honor members of
19 our society whose contribution to the welfare of our fellow-
20 men has been exceptional. Our Lord said that men do not
21 light a lamp in order to hide it undr a bushel. It is
22 set on a stand where it gives light to all the poeple in
23 the home. And, so the light of one man dedicated good
24 example of citizenship and work for the welfare of others
25 should be lifted up so that others may see it and imitate
it.

The selection of Mr. Esposito as this year's

1 guest of honor is a tribute to the good judgment of
2 this organization as well as a tribute to his deserving
3 record of hard work.

4 We pray earnestly that God in his goodness
5 may continue to grant to my good friend and yours good
6 health, energy of mind and body and every grace to continue
7 to serve for many more years this great community of
8 Brooklyn. (APPLAUSE)

9 MR. ZANGARA: Thank you. Please remain
10 standing. And, now it gives me a great privilege and
11 honor to introduce and present the Vice-President of the
12 United States with our Guest of Honor being escorted by
13 the Reception Committee. (APPLAUSE)

14 And, now, ladies and gentlemen, please
15 be seated and have a good dinner. Thank you.

16 - -
17 MR. ZANGARA: Members of the Clergy, Mr.
18 President, Mr. Vice-President, Mr. Ambassador, Mr. Counsel
19 General, Distinguished and Honored Members of the Dais
20 and Ladies and Gentlemen, first of all may I tell you how
21 delighted I am to have the opportunity to speak to you
22 briefly tonight and to be with you at the conclusion of
23 this day that I have spent with the President of the United
24 States in this non-political activity of ours which has
25 occupied us all day long. (APPLAUSE)

1 And, it is at the conclusion of a day
2 of non-political activity that we come here tonight
3 to express our tremendous admiration on this Columbus
4 Day to commemorate the memory of the man who discovered
5 America, to pay a tribute of tremendous respect and
6 admiration for all of his sons and daughters who have
7 contributed so much to America and all that America
8 stands for, and for that reason we are also happy to
9 be here tonight. (APPLAUSE)

10 And, on a completely non-political basis
11 I would say to all of my friends here in the Borough of
12 Brooklyn that you would have to walk with me as I did
13 today with this great man who sits at my left to see the
14 tremendous outpouring of great love and affection that
15 existed throughout the entire City of New York, (APPLAUSE)
16 which truly and really transcends all political consider-
17 ation and springs from the heart of America. A realization
18 that here we have and this has been the keynote of American
19 politics down through all the years, that in moments of
20 crisis, our political system is able to produce a great
21 leader

 and we have that leader tonight in the President of
22 the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson. (APPLAUSE)

23 And, so I am very conscious of the deep
24 dignity and the honor that is given to me, to be here
25 tonight and to speak briefly to you before I present our

1 | guest of the evening, and to join with you in an expression
2 | of great affection and admiration for your guest of honor
3 | in whose name the dinner is held, my dear friend and yours,
4 | Meade Esposito. (APPLAUSE) And, to express the wish
5 | that God will continue to shower down upon him His choicest
6 | blessings for many many years to come.

7 | And, may I now, ladies and gentlemen, the
8 | President of the United States. (APPLAUSE)

9 | PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON: Mr. O'Connor,
10 | Mr. Vice-President, Mr. Ambassador, Honorable Judges, Noble
11 | Candidates, Members of the greatest Congress ever, Ladies
12 | and Gentlemen, my Friends: First I want to thank you for
13 | your friendship and for your asking me to come here to
14 | celebrate this great Columbus Day with you. What we
15 | celebrate on October the 12th is not the fact that one
16 | Italian discovered America, but that five million Italians
17 | discovered America. (APPLAUSE)

18 | And, I might add tonight that there are
19 | eight million Americans of Italian descent. Eight million
20 | and one. One is in Rome tonight - Jack Valenti, but he
21 | is coming back, I'm told. (APPLAUSE)

22 | On Columbus Day, we celebrate those sons
23 | of Italy who have helped to make this nation the great
24 | nation that it is. But, we also celebrate America, which
25 | has brought out the greatness in so many sons of Italy.

1 We celebrate Arturo Toscanini and Fiorello La Guardia,
2 and Enrico Fermi. (APPLAUSE) And, we celebrate Rocky
3 Marciano, and Joe DiMaggio (APPLAUSE), and we celebrate
4 the memory of those poverty-stricken immigrants from
5 South Italy, whose descendents today are in the American
6 mainstream. We celebrate the facts about today's
7 Americans, who trace their heritage to Italy.

8 The statistics about education - as I
9 pointed out last evening in our meeting with my beloved
10 friend, Senator Pastori, the statistics point out this
11 factor. The second generation Italian-American has
12 finished more years of school than the average American.
13 The statistics about jobs point to the fact that the
14 second generation Italian-American is more likely to be
15 a doctor or a lawyer or an engineer or an executive than
16 the average American. And, the statistics about income
17 reveal a natural parallel -- I don't know that I should
18 say this with the tight money as tight as it is, but
19 the second generation Italian-American makes more money
20 than the average American. (LAUGHTER & APPLAUSE)

21 Yet, it hasn't been too many years since
22 Italian-Americans have felt the raw pain of discrimination
23 right here in America. So, our historical prospective
24 should remind us that as newer members of the majority
25 Italians of all people understand and practice the cardinal

1 American virtue -- fairness to all regardless of race
2 or religion or place of national origin. (APPLAUSE)

3 Now, you have a wonderful evening planned.
4 You have a great American, my beloved friend, a most
5 high public official, one of the greatest I've ever
6 known here to speak to you and I didn't come to butt
7 into his party. I did feel somewhat like the little
8 boy that didn't get an invitation to the dance; I just
9 sat down and wrote myself one. (Laughter) (Applause)

10 But, after having been engaged in my
11 vocation for thirty-five years, its pretty difficult
12 for me to be spending the night in New York City after
13 having visited in various areas of it all day and to
14 be here to meet the Premier of Laos in the morning and
15 to overlook a congregation as numerous as this, this
16 evening. (APPLAUSE)

17 I just want to leave this one thought
18 because I've already talked long enough, and that thought
19 is this. There are many Americans tonight who are feeling
20 the same way, which you and your families once felt.

21 There are many Americans tonight who need to see the
22 cardinal American virtue of fairness to all, regardless
23 of their religion or their ancestors or their race come
24 into play. And, for other Americans who are now feeling
25 that need, I ask those of you who have crossed the river

1 to extend them a helping hand. (APPLAUSE)

2 I was at my home the other Sunday and
3 my younger daughter insisted that I go to church with
4 her very very very early in the morning. We went to
5 a little church, a very poor church, very humble people,
6 God-fearing, God-loving people. And, I went there and
7 the priest talked about peace and our relations with
8 our fellow human beings and he spoke as his text, "Love
9 thy neighbor as thyself". And, I went on back at 8 o'clock
10 and had my breakfast with my daughter and with her husband
11 and about 10 o'clock, my older daughter got up. And,
12 came down and asked me to go to church with her. And,
13 we went across the mountains about 40 or 50 miles into
14 a completely new area, world, and we went to a completely
15 different church. And, the preacher started talking
16 about our relations with our fellow human beings, and
17 he started talking about the Pope's request that you all
18 pray for peace. And, he concluded by discussing at some
19 length the text, "Love thy neighbor as thyself". And,
20 to me that was a very encouraging sign in this period,
21 regardless of which side of the mountains you were on,
22 regardless of which church you were in, regardless of which
23 daughter you went out with that day, that the people of
24 this country were taking the high road and were thinking
25 along the same lines, 'Love thy neighbor as thyself'.(APPLAUSE)

INTERNATIONAL RECORDING GUILD — STATEN ISLAND 14, NEW YORK — Gibraltair 2-8262

1 MR. JACK ZANGARA: May I have your
2 attention, please? Monsignore, Most Reverend Fathers,
3 Mr. Vice-President, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
4 as Presidet of the Italian-American Professional and
5 Businessmen's Association it is my honor to welcome all
6 of you to this our 22nd annual affair, with the presen-
7 tation of our much coveted award to an outstanding
8 Italian-American, who exemplifies the civic, humanitarian
9 and charitable goals of our organization. Without further
10 ado, therefore, I wish to introduce to you our general
11 Chairman, himself a past recipient of our award, an
12 eminent Italian-American who does our honor in his pro-
13 fession and in his many charitable and humanitarian
14 endeavors, carissimo a de lustra amica, Dr. Mario Tagliagambe.
15 (APPLAUSE)

16 DR. MARIO F. TAGLIAGAMBE: Reverend Monsignore,
17 Mr. Vice-President, Mr. O'Connor, His Excellency, Ambassador
18 Fenoalta, His Excellency, the Counsel General, His Excellency,
19 _____, Members of the Dais, one and all, and ladies
20 and gentlemen in the audience, as General Chairman I want
21 to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of
22 you for coming here tonight to honor our guest of honor
23 and our organization after so many years of work in a par-
24 ticular field of promoting Italo-American cultural, social,
25 economic and politial affairs.

1 When I was asked to be General Chairman,
2 little did I realize what a great occasion we were going
3 to have, but I had an idea when I selected the guest of
4 honor in conjunction with the committee that we're on
5 the right track, as Meade Esposito is a gentleman (Applause)
6 that has established an outstanding record in our colony
7 and he's only starting, ladies and gentlemen.

8 My next choice was to pick an outstanding
9 toastmaster and I was very fortunate, again, in having
10 Ross DiLorenzo as our Toastmaster. (Applause)

11 The next item of business was to select
12 a main speaker and this was a difficult chore, but I
13 realized that I would go to somebody that was alike to
14 my profession and I thought of a great druggist from
15 Minneapolis, who went on to bigger and greater things
16 in the world, but he started out as a good druggist and
17 he's now one of the best Vice-Presidents this country's
18 ever had, Hubert Humphrey. (APPLAUSE)

19 Little did I realize we were going to be
20 more honored by the very presence of the President of
21 the United States, but there again, gentlemen, you've
22 seen it all.

23 At this time it is my privilege to introduce
24 to you the Toastmaster, but before I do that, Ross, I
25 want to take this opportunity to thank all the members

1 of the committee, particularly Nick Maltese, Judge Ruisi,
2 Judge Egavano, Joe Spadaro and the others that worked so
3 hard and devoted so much time to all the details of this
4 occasion. So to each and every one of you, thank you,
5 to those I haven't mentioned, thank you also, Ross,
6 the floor is yours. (APPLAUSE)

7 HON. ROSS J. DILORENZO: Thank you very
8 much, Doctor. Please bear with me and we'll go through
9 this quickly and nicely. I don't intend to call 62
10 members on the dais individually, so I think you'll
11 approve of the system I'm going to follow. I'm going
12 to ask everyone on the dais to please stand and take a
13 bow and we'll save 25 minutes. Will you all please stand?
14 (APPLAUSE) This gives you more time, Mr. Vice-President.
15 However, we are very very grateful to some visiting
16 dignitaries that do not live in the City nor the State
17 of New York and I think we owe them the courtesy of an
18 individual introduction. Such as the Honorable Neil
19 Peterson, the Administrative Aid to the Vice-President
20 of the United States, who insists on sitting out in the
21 audience. The Honorable John Blodnik, Congressman from
22 the State of Minnesota. (APPLAUSE) The Honorable L.
23 N. Oldsink, United States Civil Service Commissioner.
24 (APPLAUSE) And, personal and near friends of the Vice-
25 President, such as Mr. and Mrs. George Bookbinder. (APPLAUSE)

1 Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Stutmann. (APPLAUSE) And, the Honorable--
2 I'm so happy to see you here again - Jack Wolfgang. (APPLAUSE)
3 Never made it. He's stuck in Switzerland.

4 I understand in the audience we have a
5 great Borough President, Honorable Irving Badillo from
6 the Bronx. Will you please stand? (Applause) Great
7 friend of Meade Esposito.

8 Ladies and Gentlemen, for a very good
9 reason, his little talk was interrupted. Now I want
10 you again to meet, the Mayor of Buffalo, and the Next
11 Attorney-General of the State of New York, Frank Sedita.
12 (APPLAUSE)

13 MAYOR FRANK SEDITA: Mr. Toastmaster,
14 Reverend Gentlemen, Ambassador, Next Governor of the State
15 of New York, Mr. Vice-President, Distinguished Guests,
16 Ladies and Gentlemen, you have no idea what a handicap
17 they placed me in. They keep telling me, Don't take more
18 than 30 seconds. Someone says, Take a minute. They said,
19 Go on. The President is coming. I said, Here's my big
20 chance. They said, Get out of Here. Sit down. (Applause)

21 Thank God in addition to all these wonderful
22 people we have three great men here, the Vice-President,
23 the next Governor and Meade Esposito. How about that.
24 (APPLAUSE) Tonight we celebrate the memory of a great
25 Italian, who came here and made it possible for all of

1 us to be here after our fathers and thank God, after
2 they took the banana boats. Isn't that true? I'm
3 happy to be here. I'm glad my father came here. I
4 like what I'm doing here. I'm enjoying myself. I want
5 you to know that I'm enjoying this business of campaigning.
6 I've never been out of Buffalo, except to come to New
7 York once in a while and they took me here on the second
8 day and they said, We're taking you to (Italian) _____
9 _____. I said, "Where's that?" They said, "That's
10 in New York. There's millions of Italians there. You
11 got to meet them." So when I got there, there were millions
12 of Italians. I said, "Well, what part am I? Where am I?"
13 They said, "You're in Chinatown." (Laughter) That's a fact.
14 So they said, "Start talking to them in Italian." So, I
15 said, (Italian) _____ They never told
16 me in high school, when I took 3 years of Italian how to
17 say Attorney-General, and so Louis DiSalvo says "(Italian
18 for Attorney-General). So I walked up to the first big
19 husky fellow, cooking _____, and I said (Italian _____
20 _____). He said, "I don't know what the Hell
21 you're talking about, Mac; I was born here. (Laughter)

22 And, then they took us to meet The Saint,
23 a statue about 3 feet high, dressed in multicolored vest-
24 ments and when I got there, they have a custom or tradition,
25 Mr. Vice-President. They pin money on the dress of the

1 Saint. And, when I saw the money pinned there, I knew
2 that I was not brought there for a social call, so I
3 said to Louis DiSalvo, "How much?" They said, "Well,
4 a C-note would be fine." I said, "A C-note? That's a
5 hundred dollars." He said, "Yea." I said, "My name is
6 Sedita, not Rockefeller". (Laughter & Applause) They
7 said, "Would you go for a fifty?" I said, "Would you
8 believe twenty?" (Laughter) So we put the twenty, I turned
9 to my right and there was Howard Samuels, the millionaire.
10 And, he's looking in his pocket and digging in his pocket,
11 really, the industrialist. He takes out a dollar, another
12 one. I said, "What are you going to do with that?" He
13 said, "That's all I got. I don't carry any money." I
14 said, "You put that two bucks on the Saint and we blow
15 the election tonight." (Laughter & Applause) So then I
16 handed him twenty dollars. I turned to O'Connor. O'Connor
17 is doing this, he's searching, he's looking. I said, "What's
18 amatter?" He said, "I didn't bring any money with me."
19 Twanty more. So the first big night in the big City
20 for Frank Sedita it cost me \$60 to meet a (Italian)

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 Well, its been a great, great experience
23 and I'm happy to have taken on this chore. I find that
24 people are good people no matter where you go. But,
25 before I sit down and I know that I don't want to presume

1 upon you, let me tell you that I'm happy to be here,
2 to join with you in paying tribute to a great, great
3 fellow, Meade Esposito (Applause), who was a tremendous
4 help to me in Buffalo at that Convention. And, Meade,
5 God love you, this is great testimony to your popularity
6 and to the respect of the people in this area have for
7 you. Good luck to you and God Bless you all. (APPLAUSE)

8 DR. TAGLIAGAMBE: Ladies and Gentlemen,
9 the Ambassador from Italy to the United States, the
10 Honorable Sergio Fenoalta. (APPLAUSE)

11 AMBASSADOR SERGIO FENOALTA: Mr. Vice-
12 President, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am
13 honored, I am delighted, I am proud to be here tonight
14 to join in this great celebration of Columbus Day and
15 I am not running for an election. The same day, October
16 12, is called and celebrated in Italy as Amerigus Day,
17 so it is fit and appropriate to make Columbus Day a
18 special occasion to celebrate the deep, century-old ties
19 between America and Italy. It is fit and appropriate
20 for Columbus Day to be a day of rejoicing for all Americans
21 and for all Italians and of course a very special rejoicing
22 for Americans of Italian descent. (Applause)

23 The presence here tonight of the President
24 of the United States and your own presence, Mr. Vice-Presidtn,
25 are a tribute to the friendship between America and Italy.

1 They are also, I am sure, a tribute to the achievements
2 of your own _____ compliment, Mr. Vice-President, whose
3 ancestors came from the land of Columbus.

4 Nearly five centuries have elapsed since
5 Columbus' voyage, five centuries which have seen the
6 formation on this continent of this great nation and its
7 growth and development towards its present position of
8 leadership. The free peoples of the world know that they
9 can depend on this leadership because it is based not
10 on strength alone, but on strength and idealism. (Applause)
11 This extraordinary combination which is typical of America.

12 So, my friends, let us celebrate Columbus
13 Day as the anniversary of one of the great and the happy
14 dates in the history of mankind. Let's make of Columbus
15 Day an occasion to refer the ties between America and
16 Italy and indeed the ties between America and Europe for
17 the safeguard of peace, of freedom, and justice in the
18 world. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

19 DR. TAGLIAGAMBE: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.
20 Now, ladies and gentlemen, the next speaker for the purpose
21 of making a presentation to our guest of honor is the
22 General Clerk and the Administrator of the Supreme Court
23 for the County of Kings and our Senior State Committeeman
24 and a good friend of all of us, Jim Mangano. (APPLAUSE)
25

1 HONORABLE JAMES V. MANGANO:Mr. Vice-President,
2 Your Excellency, Next Governor of the State of New York,
3 Mr. Esposito, the Guest of Honor, Distinguished Members
4 of the Dais, Ladies and Gentlemen, my task of this evening
5 is a very happy one. In that I must make a presentation
6 in behalf of the Italian-American Business and Professional
7 Organization to an individual who has manifested a great
8 philanthropic trait as endeavored to help his fellowman,
9 regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.
10 But, tonight is a very unusual night, in that we are par-
11 ticipating in an occasion where every Italian-American
12 in the City of New York should be proud, particularly as
13 this affair tonight with the presence of the President of
14 the United States of America and the Vice-President of our
15 United States of America. (APPLAUSE)

16 About 68 years ago, in 1898, one of the
17 pioneers came to this country never realizing that her
18 son would be honored at an affair dedicatd to his behalf
19 on October the 12th and I refer to the mother of the Guest
20 of Honor, who I am going to ask at this time to take a bow
21 as a pioneer of the Italians in America. Mrs. Esposito.

22 (APPLAUSE)

23 And, I'd like to present to you his charming
24 wife, Ann Esposito. (APPLAUSE) And, the second generation,
25 Felicia, Jr.

1 At this time, ladies and gentlemen,
2 I would like to make the presentation on behalf of this
3 organization. May I read the inscription?

4 "Meade H. Esposito, Leader, devoted public
5 servant, humanitarian, we are proud to present you with
6 the annual Man of the Year Award, as the outstanding
7 citizen of Italian ancestry in our community. Italian-a
8 American Professional and Businessmen's Association, Inc.
9 October 12, 1966." May I say (Italian) _____

10 (APPLAUSE) (Presentation of Award)

11 Ladies and gentlemen, your guest of honor,
12 the Honorable Meade H. Esposito. (APPLAUSE)

13 HONORABLE MEADE H. ESPOSITO: Thank you,
14 Jimmy. Mr. Chairman, Reverend Clergy, Mr. Vice-President,
15 Next Governor of the State of New York Frank O'Connor
16 (Applause), Distinguished Guests on the Dais and Distingu-
17 gished Guests in the Audience, if I tell you that I am
18 pleased, touched and gratified I would be putting it mildly.
19 I am overwhelmed. Believe me, I am. When two people such
20 as the President and the Vice-President of these United
21 States came here to say hello to us, we have much to be
22 thankful for. (Applause)

23 For many of us this is the busiest time of
24 the year. I suppose I can be accurately - it can be
25 accurately termed, the peak of our season. May I express

1 the humble hope in the non-partisan spirit of this
2 occasion that it will be a more successful season,
3 much more than it has been in others in our history.

4 I deeply appreciate and thank the Italian-
5 American Professional and Businessmen's Association, who
6 are our host tonight.

7 The only way I can possibly merit the
8 and
9 accolades/the nice things that have been said about me
10 is to work even harder than I have been with you to
11 make our Borough, our City and our State a much better
12 place to work in and live in for all people. (Applause)

13 You know, we Italian-Americans feel we have
14 rather a special sense of responsibility to our fellow
15 citizens. None of them would be here and God only knows
16 where they would have been if Columbus had stayed in Italy
17 and minded his own business. (Laughter) We Italo-Americans
18 have two traditions and two histories and we're very proud
19 of those two histories and two traditions. As Italians
20 we are proud of our pioneers in the fields of the arts,
21 music, literature, and science. (Applause) Moreover,

22 Western culture has been constantly enriched by the con-
23 tributions of the Carusos, the Michelangelos, the Fermis--
24 need I go on? I could go on all night and mention names.

25 (Applause) And, as immigrants to America, your fathers and
your grandfathers and yes, many of our own generation have

1 helped build the ships, the railroads, the factories,
2 which made our great country, the great country that
3 it is.

4 Now, we are on the threshold of a new
5 society, a new America. The shaping of this society,
6 hopefully a great society, each and every one of us
7 is needed to help make it a reality and as our great
8 Vice-President has said and I quote him. "The important
9 question to be determined is, are we strong enough? Are
10 we brave enough to alter our lives and embark on the
11 road which will solve our problems? Will we have the
12 combination of imagination and courage to live up to
13 the traditions of our heritage?" Those were great words,
14 Mr. Vice-President. (Applause)

15 And, as we fight for civil rights for all
16 minorities we will be safeguarding our own. I want to
17 underscore the word 'fight'. I and thousands of Italian-
18 Americans are sick and tired of the stereotypes created
19 by the Press and television enfolded and fed by those
20 who hunger for public office. Make no mistake about it,
21 these stereotypes have caught hold. When one reads of
22 the arrest of a Negro, the immediate reaction is racist.
23 When one reads of the arrest of a Puerto-Rican, the immediate
24 reaction is switch blades. When one reads of an Italian,
25 the immediate reaction is Mafia members. (Applause)

1 And, so the smear -- before I go into that, let's not
2 forget our Jewish brethern who have been smeared and
3 stereotyped for many many years. And, they have fought
4 back and the Italians have to fight back. And, I want
5 you to know...(Applause), if I sound angry and I look
6 angry, damn it, I am angry. And, so the smear grows
7 and is attached to all Negroes, all Peurto-Ricans, all
8 Italian-Americans.

9 Its bad enough when the press creates this
10 image. Its even worse when public officials resort with
11 leaks to the press, trial by headline and guilty by
12 association. (APPLAUSE) What has happened to our American
13 system of juris toris? Where a man is presumed to be
14 innocent until found guilty by a jury of its peers and
15 who was it that said - I think it was Cardosa who said
16 it - Better that a hundred guilty men go free than one
17 innocent man be found guilty.

18 The Civil Liberties Union saw fit several
19 weeks ago to condemn the District Attorney of Queens
20 County for the condemnation of people in advance of trial
21 and for his extra political legal tactics. (Applause)
22 I wonder and I marvel why only the Civil Liberties Union
23 spoke up. Where are those lovers and those fighters of
24 civil liberties? Where are they? Why haven't they spoken
25 up? What's happened to the Civil Rights, the Human Rights

1 Commission? And, yes, how do the major candidates in
2 this election stand and feel about trial by conviction
3 in advance and guilt by association? (APPLAUSE)

4 Thomas Jefferson said it. "Every infringe-
5 ment of every man's rights, no matter who the individual
6 is, any slur on any people, whoever the people may be,
7 must be beaten down and stopped."

8 In closing, my friends, let me quote the
9 words of a great theologian philosopher, Father Edwin
10 Walsh, S.J. He said, "Love me if you must, hate me if
11 you want, but please don't tolerate me." Thank you.
12 (APPLAUSE)

13 DR. TAGLIAGAMBE: I'm very happy Frank
14 O'Connor returned. He's a great friend of our Guest of
15 Honor and, Frank, I assure you our guest of honor is a
16 great friend of yours and we're doing everything in
17 the world for you. (APPLAUSE)

18 Before I introduce someone else, I want
19 to welcome, of course, our very good friend Stanley
20 Steingut to do honor to our guest of honor. / (Applause) And, I
21 want everyone here to meet -- they didn't give me her
22 name, but she's Miss Italia, a beauty winner I guess
23 representing the Country of Italy. (APPLAUSE)
24 I was just told she's from Sicily. (APPLAUSE) And, to
25 be that pretty, she has to be from Palermo. (Applause)

1 Now, ladies and gentlemen, as you know
2 the Italian immigration problem is practically over,
3 after 14 years of hard hard work. This is the first
4 opportunity I have had to give personal thanks to the
5 person who did most for the Italian-Americans. As
6 National Secretary, I could testify to that and I tell
7 you from the bottom of my heart everytime that Judge
8 Martesio and myself and Dr. Tagliagambe went to Washington,
9 the Vice-President of the United States held out his hand
10 and welcomed our problem and helped us to achieve the
11 goal we did on behalf of immigration. (APPLAUSE)

12 This gentleman did not give us lip service.
13 He did not speak out of both sides of his mouth. He was
14 in no way hippocritical. He listened to the Italian
15 problems and believe me you, he delivered them because
16 I tell you, I am a witness to that. And, when I tell
17 you as the National Secretary of the Italian-American
18 Immigration we have the greatest friend in the United
19 States of America in the Vice-President of the United
20 States of America, Hubert Humphrey. (APPLAUSE)

21 VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY: Thank you
22 very much, Judge DiLorenzo. My esteemed fellow-Americans,
23 too many distinguished guests here tonight to take the
24 time to say each name, but are very much admired and
25 respected, friend from the great Republic of Italy, the

INTERNATIONAL RECORDING GUILD — STATEN ISLAND 14, NEW YORK — Gibraltar 2-8262

1 distinguished Ambassador of that great nation, we welcome
2 you at this dinner tonight, sir. You honor us by your
3 presence. (Applause) And, my good friend, and let me
4 just say it so clearly that you will never forget it,
5 the next Governor of the State of New York, Frank O'Connor.
6 (APPLAUSE) He's a good man. (APPLAUSE) He could even
7 be an Italian, he's such a good man. (APPLAUSE) And,
8 that delightful Mayor of Buffalo, Frank Sedita. Frank,
9 its good to see you. (APPLAUSE) That fellow could even
10 me an Irishman, the way he can tell stories. (Laughter)
11 And, the members of Congress who have graced this dinner
12 tonight by their presence. And, I'm sure that I'll miss
13 some, but let me just say that I'm so delighted to see
14 my long-time, personal, beloved, dear friend down there,
15 John Blodnick from Minnesota. (APPLAUSE) And, up in the
16 dais with you tonight, the great Congressman, Hugh Carey.
17 (Applause) And, that great Congressman, Abe Molteri--
18 I hope you're still here with us. (Laughter)

19 And, I want you dear friends to know that
20 while the Scandinavians and the Italians have been arguing
21 about who discovered America, you, Carey and Abe Molter
22 have been running off with it. They've really got it
23 under control right now. (Applause)

24 But, friends, you've had a wonderful evening
25 and I'm sure that the honored guests of tonight, your own

1 Meade Esposito and pronounced by Frank Sedita in a Polish
2 manner, I'm sure it was, (Laughter) from up in Buffalo
3 that your own honored guest has already delivered to
4 you a memorable message. But, what an evening, what a
5 wonderful surprise. I want to tell you tonight was as
6 big surprise for all of us as the discovery of America
7 was for Columbus when the President of the United States
8 came here. (APPLAUSE)

9 Let me tell you I'd be mighty surprised
10 if I didn't recognize that in this audience tonight is
11 two other of my colleagues in the Congress; I wouldn't
12 forget them for a moment. John Murphy and Gene Keogh.
13 (APPLAUSE)

14 May I just say a word to Meade Esposito
15 and to his wonderful mother, his wife and members of
16 the family. What a rare privilege it is to be in the
17 company of your friends and to be here to celebrate with
18 you, Meade, a much deserved honor and to see you so
19 happily and warmly received by friends and neighbors
20 for your work on behalf of your fellow human beings. I,
21 too, join with the Reverend clergy of this gathering,
22 the distinguished judges, the public officials in elective
23 office, distinguished Ambassador in saluting you.

24 Now, can you imagine how I feel tonight
25 after having all of the humor of the Mayor of Buffalo,

1 Frank Sedita; after being in the presence of the gentle-
2 man that I want so much to see as your distinguished
3 governor, to be here in the presence of this honored
4 guest, your friend and neighbor, and this distinguished
5 ambassador that has brought honor to himself and his
6 country, and then to be here on the program as making
7 the address and to have the President of the United States,
8 Lyndon Johnson, come here and speak to you as he did.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 You know I have a speech and I think I'm
11 just going to file it with Meade as one of those speeches
12 that will never be given, but it is one that comes from
13 the heart and maybe I can pass it along to one of our
14 firends. The President and I have a good deal of fun
15 about these gatherings. From time to time I go fill in
16 for the President and then lo and behold, the doors will
17 open and the trumpets will blare, the lights will go on
18 and in comes the President and down sits the Vice-President.

19 (APPLAUSE) But, that's the way it should be. When Mr.

20 Number One walks in, Mr. Two sits down. But, tonight I
21 feel we're both with you and have been with you as partners
22 and as neighbors and friends.

23 I can't think of any greater honor that
24 could be paid to this gathering than the honor of having
25 as your guest, as your guest by his own desire, by his

1 own wish on his own volition, the gentleman that occupies
2 the highest office within the gift of the American people,
3 the President of the United States. What a great moment.

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 I have sat alongside this evening of my
6 good friend, your distinguished Supreme Court Justice,
7 Judge DiGiovanna, Anthony to you, Tony. (Applause) And,
8 we have discussed this evening and what it means. And,
9 I want to take just a very few moments to talk about it
10 with you.

11 Can you imagine what America would be like
12 -- indeed what the world would be like without the great
13 artistry, the great intellectual accomplishments and
14 achievements, the great architecture, the great works
15 of Leonardi DaVinci. Can you imagine America and the
16 world without it? Can you imagine modern civilization
17 without it? Can you imagine what this world would be like
18 without the genius, the immortal genius of Michaelangelo?
19 Can you imagine what the realm of music would be like
20 without that beautiful, magnificent, immortal voice of
21 Caruso, that touch of artistry and that brilliance and
22 that flare of the dramatic of Toscanini. My fellow-
23 Americans, this is what Italy has given to the world
24 amongst many other things. But, can you imagine what
25 this world would be like without the beloved words and

1 the leadership and spiritual guidance of the late and
2 beloved Pope John XXIII, the peasant priest? (Applause)
3 And, I mention him because he came from such humble
4 birth, he came from the people, from the soil, and
5 indeed blessed and anointed by God Almighty to serve
6 all of mankind. Can you imagine the kind of civilization
7 we'd have without people like this?

8 Is it any wonder, therefore, that we have
9 a day that we call Columbus Day and that we celebrate
10 it as a national holiday, not only because of Christopher
11 Columbus, even though that would in itself be adequate
12 reason, but we celebrate Columbus Day because it tells
13 us the story of the new world. It tells us the story of
14 hope. It tells us the story of adventure. It tells us
15 the story of a restless humanity that seeks always better
16 days, and a better world. That's what Christopher Columbus
17 means.

18 The truth is that while Christopher Columbus
19 was the great discoverer, we discovered through the know-
20 ledge of Christopher Columbus ourselves. We discovered our
21 own world. Many of us fail to remember that Christopher
22 Columbus was more than a sailor. He was, indeed, a philo-
23 sopher. And, I found a statement of his that told me the
24 story that I wanted to tell you tonight.

25 Christopher Columbus said and he surely could

1 speak in his time of the wonders of the world, because
2 he had seen more of it than anyone up to that date.
3 He said, "I have seen the wonders of the world and
4 I have seen that man is not helpless, in consequential
5 creature at all. Man is the greatest wonder of all,"
6 said Christopher Columbus. And, he may dare to hope
7 that human folly and pettiness will be expunged by the
8 greatness of his eternal soul.

9 And, in those few lines from that man
10 there is the story of the scientist, of the explorer,
11 of the adventurer, of the navigator and of the sailor,
12 and there is the story of the philosopher and of a man
13 of deep and abiding faith, who knew that he had a soul,
14 who understood the importance of man, who understood
15 the frailties of man. And, yet, had reason to have
16 faith in the ultimate reason and decency of man. And,
17 that's what we are talking about tonight. That's what
18 your President talked to you about. That's what your
19 honored guest talked to you about. That's what every
20 person from this platform tonight, this dais, has talked
21 to you about. America. What a wonderful land it is.

22 (APPLAUSE)

23 I can't help but say to you that the story
24 of Christopher Columbus is more than a biography and its
25 more than a page in history. The story of Christopher

1 Columbus reminds every one of us that America is a
2 nation of immigrants. And, it reminds us of something
3 else, too. It reminds us that in order to seek the
4 goals that we have in mind we frequently need the
5 help and the support of others as he received it.

6 I might mention that because this blessed America might
7 never have been discovered at least in those early years
8 had it not been for some foreign aid from Christopher
9 Columbus, somebody that had some faith. (APPLAUSE)

10 And, the story of Christopher Columbus
11 and his discovery of this land is also the story of poor
12 people, poor people, plain people becoming great people
13 and building a great land. I've listened tonight to
14 the story of the immigrant and I can look across this
15 room and almost point to any table and say, either the
16 first, second or third generation, only that far from
17 being poor in material goods, but rich in spirit.

18 Abraham Lincoln said that America is the
19 last best hope on earth and surely America represents
20 real hope for mankind. And, I hope as we leave this
21 dinner tonight we'll keep in mind those qualities that
22 made our greatness. We didn't start out rich and power-
23 ful. Like the Italian immigrant, this nation fought its
24 way up out of the dirt and out of the land and out of
25 the poverty and out of the misery of our life and our

1 lives.

2 One of the reasons I believe that this
3 day is so important is that it tells the youth of this
4 generation that if you have the will and the determination
5 you can have the opportunity in America to make something
6 out of your lives. (APPLAUSE)

7 I appreciate the high honor that has been
8 paid to me tonight about my work on the Immigration Bill.
9 I did nothing more there than anyone should do and many
10 others did more and many ever so many as much. But, at
11 long last we have made our immigration law humane. At
12 long last we cleaned out its ugliness. I can surely
13 tell you that had the same immigration policy that existed
14 in this nation for well over 40 years been present at the
15 time of Christopher Columbus tried to get into this
16 hemisphere, he'd had been an illegal entrant. He'd had
17 never made it. (APPLAUSE)

18 But, fortunately we changed. And, what
19 does this America tell you? It tells you that it is
20 the living demonstration of the capacity and the ability
21 of plain people to become great people, of a nation that
22 has been blessed by many many blessings to become a rich
23 and powerful nation with character and soul.

24 How pleased I was tonight to hear your
25 honored guest speak of some of the trials and tribulations

1 of our times. My fellow Americans, we believe in this
2 land and only one aristocracy, the aristocracy of American
3 citizenship, the fact that if you are an American, if
4 you have the citizenship of this Republic, you have the
5 highest honor that can be paid to any mortal on the face
6 of this earth. (APPLAUSE)

7 May I say that if you have that great
8 privilege and that great honor you have also responsi-
9 bility. And, one of those responsibilities is to act,
10 to talk, to walk, to work and to live in the spirit of
11 this Republic. And, that spirit is one of equal oppor-
12 tunity, of equal justice under the law, that a man is
13 innocent until proven guilty. That spirit in America
14 is a complete repudiation of the viciousness as was
15 pointed out here tonight of guilt by association, and
16 never (Applause) ever will it be the practice of this
17 land. (Applause)

18 Yes, my friends, a great new day is here
19 at hand. A great new day, make no mistake about it.
20 And, you've helped make it. I hope that all of us have
21 helped make it. We need not select out any particular
22 ethnic or racial group. Thank God for America and its
23 peoples. Thank God for the many strains of blood and
24 nationalities and culture that make up this nation and
25 thank goodness that in America it is safe to be different.

1 Thank goodness in America individual freedom is more
2 than a phrase. It is a committment. And, thank God
3 that in America we're blessed by the people and they're
4 ancestors and descendents and families of those who
5 are in this room. Good night. (APPLAUSE)

6 : Will you please be
7 seated, one second please? Ladies and gentlemen,
8 we're very very grateful to the Vice-President. I
9 almost forgot. One of the gentlemen most responsible
10 for all these dignitaries being here is a very dear
11 friend of ours from Cleveland, Rocky Graziano and I
12 almost forgot to say hello to you, Rocky. (APPLAUSE)
13 There he is, right here. And, will Tony Travia, Speaker
14 of the House, please take a bow? (Applause)

15 Ladies and Gentlemen, we have adopted
16 the Vice-President of the United States tonight on.
17 Meade Esposito says that his name is Gamberto _____.
18 (Applause)

19 Now, Benediction, ladies and gentlemen,
20 by the Right Reverend Monsignor Joseph DiMarco of St.
21 Rita's Roman Catholic Church.

22 (BENEDICTION)

23 (ADJOURNEMENT)



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