

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
FOUR FREEDOMS AWARD
ITALIAN-AMERICAN LABOR COUNCIL
NEW YORK CITY
December 17, 1966

Mark Twain once observed: "It is nice to be honored, but nicer still to be honored by those who represent the things you believe in."

His words express my feelings today.

I am honored by the honorers -- the men and women of the Italian-American Labor Council, who represent the progressive spirit of democratic trade unionism.

And I am honored by this award -- which symbolizes the wisdom and vision of one of the greatest Americans of the Twentieth Century.

Franklin Roosevelt was a man who placed his faith and his heart, above all, with the people.

The secret of America's success has always been in our most vital resource: Our people. And over the years Italy has contributed the second largest number of new Americans. Four million Italians have come here 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, artists, labor leaders, teachers, athletes, scientists and government officials. And they have enriched our music, art and architecture.

So it is hardly surprising that such warm and close ties bind the United States and Italy.

I know you are well aware of the disaster that has befallen Northern Italy as the result of unprecedented floods recently.

The destruction in Florence of world famous art treasures, documents and priceless literature is nothing short of an international disaster. Over and above the destruction to museums and art centers is the tragic loss of human life and the loss of private property running into the millions of dollars.

We can all be proud of the response by our government and our people to this disaster.

American students were among the first on the scene, trying to salvage art treasures. President Johnson immediately ordered in help in the form of medical supplies, fresh water, vaccines, food and clothing. We also furnished generators, pumps, earth-moving equipment and manpower.

The American Red Cross sent drugs, clothing and an emergency donation of 25 thousand dollars. The Catholic Relief Services also sent clothing and emergency funds.

And all across America, committees of private citizens were formed to provide assistance for flood victims and for rescuing the art treasures.

This vast outpouring of help and concern demonstrates clearly the very special affection between our two countries.

The reason is not very mysterious. We share with Italy a passion for peace, justice and progress in the world. We share a common spiritual and cultural heritage that teaches human dignity and compassion for the suffering of our neighbors.

Italy is not merely our ally in NATO and in the Atlantic Partnership; it is our close and trusted friend.

Our work today is very similar. Both America and Italy are trying to create societies that extend the boundaries of human opportunity.

They are trying to bring progress to every community and to all their people.

They are trying to find ways to make life happy and useful and filled with the blessings of peace.

For our generation is determined to pass on to our children better advantages than the ones we possessed. We are trying in the words of Pope Paul, to "create a world that is more humane by promoting the common good of all."

We know that progress does not come quickly or easily. Men hungered for the Four Freedoms long before President Roosevelt enunciated them in January, 1941. In fact, the quest to attain fundamental human rights goes back far beyond our own century, into the distant past.

Why are these rights so difficult to attain? The reason is obvious: Freedom is dangerous.

Yes, dangerous to those who cling to the status quo or the need for retaining entrenched power . . . and to those unwilling to create progress or expand the horizons of human opportunity.

Consider the meaning of the Four Freedoms --

Freedom of speech and expression.

Freedom to worship God in our own way.

Freedom from want.

Freedom from fear -- anywhere in the world.

Freedom of speech and expression means coping with a people who are informed, critical, inquiring and, yes, sometimes opposed to the policies of their government. It means that the voice of the people shall be heard, whether the voice is pleasing to those in power or not.

Freedom to worship God in our own way means tolerating those who believe differently than we do, those who think by different lights, and who, perhaps, express different values. It means that the security of our own beliefs will not feel threatened by other voices or other views.

Freedom from want means that a government of the people shall harness national wealth and resources to insure its citizens access to the essentials of life.

Freedom from fear means creating a secure and humane society that will enrich the human spirit, not smother it with oppressive conformity or tyrannical pressures. Freedom from fear means the freedom to be -- fully and completely -- a human being responsive to the challenges of our time.

Yes, freedom is dangerous to those in the world who oppose human progress. But freedom is as essential to life as the very air we breathe.

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

And we are working to achieve a Fifth Freedom -- freedom from hunger.

Yes, hunger still stalks half the world. Each year some 10 thousand people die of hunger. And there are more than 200 million children in the world suffering from malnutrition.

There are hundreds of millions on three continents who exist on incomes of little more than a dollar a week. Many have less to spend on food and other basic needs than the average American spends on a package of cigarettes.

One of our responses to this widespread suffering has been the Food for Peace program -- a program unprecedented in the history of mankind.

Today the output of one of every four productive acres on American farms is shipped overseas to help feed hungry millions.

Yet we have only begun to touch the problem. World food production has not increased in the past two years. And in that two-year period, the world has added nearly 140 million people. Some 80 per cent of these hungry new mouths have been added in lands least able to feed them.

Today, the developing nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America look increasingly to America and other free nations -- not just for food and fiber, as in the past, but also for answers as to how they can do more to feed and clothe themselves.

We mean, through the new Food for Freedom program to help them find those answers. And we are dedicated to leading other food-producing and developed nations in the greater common effort by all of us.

If we do not find the answers -- if we do not make the effort, I cannot have much hope either for world peace or the future of the human family.

President Roosevelt would have been proud of Food for Freedom. This program embodies the legacy he left to us of bold idealism, courage and responsibility in meeting our obligations to one another and to the rest of the world.

He taught us that to be a great people we must do what we can to make life useful and productive not for ourselves alone, but for those millions on earth who need our help.

Yes, realization of the Four Freedoms is finally in sight in America. And there is a Fifth Freedom which urgently cries for realization all over the world.

We are not complacent. We do not aspire to be an island of contentment in the midst of a stormy sea. Ahead of us lies the ageless dream of man -- a dream common to both the cultures of Italy and of America: To live a useful and productive life in freedom and dignity.

In closing, I give you a challenge written in his own hand by Franklin Roosevelt, on April 12, 1945, at his desk in Warm Springs, Georgia--for an address he was never to deliver. His final message to us all was this:

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith. "

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

FOUR FREEDOMS AWARD

ITALIAN-AMERICAN LABOR COUNCIL

Your Silver Jubilee

NEW YORK CITY

December 17, 1966

Mario Procaccino
Congressman adabo

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→ Luigi Antonini - and his Jimmy - a great American - a fighter for freedom - a Progressive Union Leader - a fine and good man!

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He knew that
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- A man to come - new Immigration act

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reason is obvious: Freedom threatens those who cling to
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... and those unwilling to create progress or expand the
horizons of human opportunity.

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Freedom to worship God in our own way.

Freedom from want.

Freedom from fear -- anywhere in the world.

Right of dissent - you respect and protest
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↳ Yes, freedom is dangerous to those in the world who oppose human progress. But freedom is as essential to life as the very air we breathe, freedom means opportunity!

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not just for food and fiber, ~~as in the past~~ but also for answers as to how they can do more to feed and clothe themselves.

Key? We mean, through the new Food for Freedom program, to help them find those answers. ~~And we are dedicated to leading other food-producing and developed nations in a greater common effort by all of us.~~

↳ If we do not find the answers...if we do not make the effort, ~~we~~ cannot have much hope either for world peace or the future of the human family. (*Pope John*)

The hungry nations need our food. They need our know-how and assistance. *we shall help - But* They need our faith in them.

↳ And we must offer all these things.

President Roosevelt would have been proud of Food for Freedom. This program embodies the legacy he left to us of bold idealism, courage and responsibility in meeting our obligations to one another and to the rest of the world.

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