

Toast - White House Dinner
January 25, 1968

Mr. President, you have greatly honored the
Speaker, the Chief Justice and me. I hope we
can repay your kindness in the months ahead
with renewed efforts to lighten your awesome
burdens.

*It you have opened the House
to us - But more important
you have opened your heart to us*

-2-

For these are times of great decision when,
in the words of Harry Truman, "to be President
of the United States is to be lonely, very
lonely."

*In your State of the Union Address
you spoke of our country as
a mighty ship cutting through
new waters*

-3-

and we know

And that great ship cutting through stirred
and troubled waters can have but one hand on the
helm. One hand must steer through the storms of
the moment -- and simultaneously chart the
course of the future.

We who work with you know the greatest victories can go unnoticed and unpraised. Crises averted are soon forgotten, although they may have menaced the security of all mankind. Historic legislation that has vastly enriched the life of every American is soon accepted as commonplace -- taken for granted.

And meanwhile the great ship must move on, toward its "rendezvous with destiny."

We are proud to serve with you.

Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Speaker and Mrs. McCormack, Chief Justice and Mrs. Warren, Members of the Cabinet and of the Congress and honored guests -- to the President of the United States.

JANUARY 25, 1968

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

TOAST OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AT
THE DINNER HONORING THE VICE
PRESIDENT, THE SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE AND THE CHIEF JUSTICE

THE STATE DINING ROOM

(AT 10:22 P.M. EST)

Mr. President, Mrs. Johnson; Mr. Speaker and Mrs. McCormack; Mr. Chief Justice and Mrs. Warren; and the honored guests of this evening:

Mr. President, you have greatly honored the Speaker and the Chief Justice and me this evening and Mrs. Humphrey. You have not only opened this house to us, but more importantly, you have opened your heart to us.

We feel a fellowship and a friendship here tonight that goes far beyond the principles of Constitutional law or even the heritage of Government.

There is a fellowship and a friendship here which ties us and binds us together. I hope that somehow we can repay your kindness in the months ahead and to repay it with renewed efforts to lighten your awesome burdens.

We are all very conscious tonight of the tremendous demands upon you -- the incredible burden that you bear,-- and the great responsibility that is yours.

For these are times of great decisions when, in the words of one of your predecessors, President Truman, "To be President of the United States is to be lonely -- and very lonely."

In your State of the Union address you spoke of our country as a mighty ship cutting through troubled waters. I like that analogy because it told us of the movement of this nation and also of its strength. We know that this great ship, this America, cutting through stirred and troubled waters, can have but one hand on the helm.

Many of us, Mr. President, with you -- advising you -- counseling you -- and hopefully, helping you, but only one hand at the helm. Yes, one hand must steer through the storms of the moment and at the same time, chart the course of the future.

We who work with you, well we know that the greatest victories can often go unnoticed and even unpraised. Crises that are averted are soon forgotten, although they may have menaced the security of all mankind.

We also know that historic legislation which has vastly enriched the life of every American is soon accepted as commonplace and taken for granted.

MORE

I guess, Mr. President, this is the price of leadership, leadership that is more than just a promise, but is in fact an achievement.

Meanwhile, this great ship, America, must move on towards what another President called its rendezvous with destiny.

Tonight in this room are men and women who are proud to be with you on this great adventure and this great fulfillment of the promise of America.

I am sure you know, Mr. President, how proud I am to be with you and the Speaker and the Chief Justice and the others.

So, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Speaker and Mrs. McCormack, the Chief Justice and Mrs. Warren, Members of the Cabinet and the Congress and the honored guests who have gathered in this historic home -- I ask you to join me tonight in a tribute to a man who is firm and resolute, who is strong and kind, and who governs with compassion and yet with understanding and strength.

To the President of the United States.

END (AT 10:30 P.M. EST)



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