

Speech to be delivered by Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC at Polish-American Celebration at Pawtucket High School, Sunday, June 10, 1945

I am honestly glad to be here. I am always proud to see such gatherings as this because, while it may be somewhat naive in this day of earth shaking events, I am one of those who believe that the love of justice which exists in the heart and mind of the ordinary man and woman is the controlling factor in determining the future destiny of our Country.

This gathering, like so many others which have been held from time to time, is prompted by that sincere love of justice. Our presence here is evidence of our will that justice shall always prevail.

You think of Poland, and rightly so. You think of the dead of Poland, of the homes despoiled, the cities ~~reduced~~ to ashes, the beautiful opera houses, the magnificent universities, all now piles of battered masonry, and your heart weeps. But in the tears you shed for the tortured and bleeding land of your fathers there is the nourishment and life that will keep alive in your hearts the will that justice must survive - that freedom will win out - that Poland shall have the reward which she so justly merits.

If there is a man or woman in the land who does not feel his heart beat a little faster when there is mention of the land of his forebears - then that man or woman contributes little to the success of this Republic which is ours. For here, in this greatest of all countries, the children of other lands have built a monument to the love of liberty and freedom which first brought the immigrants who fled tyranny and oppression and injustice. And among those immigrants who bridged the ocean there were thousands upon thousands of Poles who to this hour continue to give their all that this Nation might prosper.

Deep in our hearts there is an abiding love of our Country and the flag which proudly testifies to our determination that we shall always stand

for justice. With that love so firmly rooted in the heart of every American that men shuddered to think that in our civilization so great a tribute could be exacted. Liberty's destruction. Never shall we permit our country to be humbled, or our flag to be disgraced, by condoning injustice under the pretext that compromise is necessary, for we know there can be no compromising with principle.

It often seems but a few short months ago - in truth it was five long and painful years ago - that the military might of Germany rolled across the borders of Poland - and Poland's great fighting heart held at bay for over a month what was then the mightiest military power ever known. It was then the world echoed to the peons of praise which were sung for the brave people of that shattered country. From every corner of the world it seemed men dedicated themselves to the cause of Poland, and wherever free men gathered Brave Poland was cited as the example of what lovers of liberty are willing to bear to maintain their freedom.

From high place and low came the shouts of devotion to the cause of Brave Poland. From the throats of the mighty came the roars of anger and pledges of revenge, and from the humble came the suppliant prayers of the faithful, beseeching a just God to aid in the resurrection of Brave Poland, a land and a people paying so great a price in the cause of freedom everywhere that men shuddered to think that in our civilization so great a tribute could be exacted.

First to feel the crushing weight of the arms of the blood-thirsty maniac who sought to dominate the world, Brave Poland, fought its terrible thirty days to stem the tide which was destined to engulf the world. Other and mightier nations sought to stem that same tide when the great cry of freedom's armies was "Remember Poland" - and in another burning thirty days the armed might of Europe's greatest democracies was rolled back into the sea - or whipped into the march back to the prison camps of the Hun.

Then it was that the peoples of the world realized how great had been the battle waged by Brave Poland and as the children of Poland took their places in the armies of the Nations fighting for peace, "Brave Poland" became the warcry of the United Nations. "Brave Poland" typified the cause for which we fought and at the same time Brave Poland's cause represented the hope of small nations for a future secure from fear.

Those were the days when all men pledged as the first fruit of victory the rebirth of a new and greater Poland - and Statesmen vied with each other in heaping honor and praise on the brave people who represented humanity's cause. Those were the days when the cry for a Second front were heard on the radio, from street corners and from the platform at massive public meetings.

Since that day we have come a long way - and the screaming voices which demanded a second front are as still as are many of those who professed undying devotion to the cause of Brave Poland.

Much has happened in the years which have rolled past since Hitler's armies first marched against the world. We have seen his armed might driven down into its lair and destroyed. We have all played some part in the smashing of the most hated instrument of evil that was ever permitted to prowl the corners of the world, destroying homes, shattering the lives of men and women, and preaching a form of life that made even the animals of the field slink away in disgust.

Our America still brandishes the sword - fighting with every weapon we possess to crush the last vestige of power-mad war lords. That complete victory will be ours we know - just as we know a just God reigns on high. Many sacrifices will be asked of us. Many sacrifices we will gladly make, because what we do we do in the name of freedom and justice - and we shall never accept any condition which threatens freedom and justice.

We look forward, with a fervent prayer on our lips, to the day of

victory - to an era of secure peace, when men can live as brothers free from the sickening fear that has plagued Europe for centuries - fear that is born out of the suspicions created by predatory national neighbors.

Already the great minds of the world are gathering to build the framework of that peaceful era. For the success of their efforts we ask the blessings of our God.

The white crosses that gleam on so many foreign hillsides are mute testimony to the will of America that the peace we seek shall be a lasting one. On fate's eternal camping ground the silent tents of America's heroes house the souls of brave men who watch our actions here. To the memory of those brave men, who, pray God, have not died in vain we have dedicated our efforts.

While the task is difficult - it is not impossible. While the meetings of international delegates is necessarily hampered somewhat by the rigmarole of diplomatic intercourse, it is not necessary that their deliberations become mired in the slough of distrust and suspicion.

Honest agreements openly arrived at can still show the way to peace, and while certain adjustments, certain sacrifices must be made, there is nothing valuable enough to require the sacrifice of Honor and Justice.

The cause of Poland is as sacred today, as when the sons of freedom first took up the sword to avenge that Nation's honor. The cause of Poland is a monument to freedom and honor today, just as it was when the people of Poland fought from the garret and the cellar, from the forests and swamps to break the hold of the Hun ^{ENEMY} to whom those brave people vowed never to surrender.

Just as the cause of Brave Poland involved the honor of free men four - three - two years ago; so the cause of Brave Poland involves the honor of free men today. Poland and justice are today inseparable - just as they were inseparable when Britain and France declared war because of the rape of

that unhappy land.

Perhaps the conference meeting now lacks the fire of some great shiboleth. Perhaps the conferences that are still to be held at other times and in other places will require the spark of inspiration that would come from some challenging cry of justice.

If that be so, then let that shiboleth be a cry which all the peoples of the world, great and small, mighty and humble, will recognize and respect. Let it be a clarion call that will summon all brave men to fight for peace - just as it once summoned the brave men of the earth to fight for victory in the bloodiest of all bloody conflicts that ever disgraced the civilized world.

Yes, let it be the same call we heard on every hand but a few short years ago - "Remember Poland".

Just as Brave Poland stood for freedom and liberty and justice when Hitler's hordes were sending the four horsemen rampaging over the greensward of Europe - so let Brave Poland stand for freedom and liberty and justice now that that warped brain has been smashed and his animal-like minions stand before the bar of International justice.

Could Poland be brave, be Honorable, be Proud, while the enemy of all mankind sought sadistic pleasure in streams of human blood and the mangled forms of tortured children? Then Poland can be brave, honorable, proud, in the sunshine of peace that has followed the storm of war.

As Poland's children seek to bind up their wounds, to begin anew some semblance of normal life; as Poland's sons and daughters attempt to rebuild their shattered cities and set out once more on the road of progress in Democracy, let men who will Peace - will Justice - the two are inseparable.

Let the voices of honest men everywhere shout their loyalty to the cause of Brave Poland and we can have justice. Those who pay lip service

to peace, yet sew the seeds of another war by building their structures on hatred and greed, will bring down on their heads the wrath of a generation that has learned to hate war and war mongers with every fibre of their being.

Just as this was proclaimed to be a peoples' war - then let it be proclaimed as loudly that this is a peoples' peace. To the cause of war we've offered everything. To the cause of peace we'll offer even more.

Out honor must be maintained. It can be maintained by Remembering Poland!

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