

Address delivered by Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC from 2nd R.I. Dist. in observance of Washington's Birthday at Nashua, N.H. Observance sponsored by Nashua Lodge of Elks. Feb. 22, 1946

Today the Nation pauses - to pay reverent tribute to the memory of the Father of our Country. Today Americans gather - throughout the land, and throughout the world, - to rekindle in our hearts the faith of our fathers - the burning love of Country - which all Americans inherited from the immortal Washington.

When I accepted the invitation extended to me by Nashua Lodge of the great patriotic order of Elks - an invitation of which, I assure you, I am deeply proud, - I wondered what I could say. I sought ~~an~~ an idea which would enable me to convey to you my deep concern for the future - but which would at the same time help to inspire you with the abiding confidence I feel in our Nation's ability to meet and defeat all its difficulties - at home or abroad.

I found myself thinking about the fiery zeal which motivated our forefathers as they prepared to set in motion an experiment in government in this land of ours. They faced ridicule and contempt in their early efforts. At home and abroad they heard the frequent assertion that this democratic form of government could not survive - and the great Father of his Country confesses in his writings that there were those who wished to make him king and substitute a monarchy for government based on the rights of free men.

Undaunted and unafraid they persevered. As ordinary mortals they were subject to the weakness of human nature. Yet they won through to their goal and we their sons and daughters enjoy the blessings of their creation - the greatest Nation on God's green footstool.

Those great patriots were moved by an unflinching faith in the God-given rights of the individual. They said, in the Declaration of

*Woonsocket Call
Rantoupet Valley Dry Times*

*Prov. Journal
Wabbe Press
Westerly Sun*

C.C.

Independence "We proclaim these truths to be self-evident - that all men are.....endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights" They did not refer to them as privileges awarded by the hand of a benevolent despot. They were not licenses bestowed on automatons who followed blindly the leadership of a self-appointed fuehrer.

They recognized that government exists through the consent of the governed and therein lies the secret of their success. Therein lies the secret of the success ~~and happiness~~ which this great nation has enjoyed since its foundation.

How well it would be, if each of us today could in some manner feel in our innermost hearts the stirrings of that same zeal which burned in the blood of Washington, Jefferson, Madison and their colleagues. ~~How~~

How well it would be if all of us heeded the clarion call to genuine Americanism - the call which is the constant appeal and the never-ending program of this great organization - the ~~Elks~~ Benevolent and Paternal

Order of Elks.

The stoutest champion in America of the God-given rights of man.

I have ~~seen~~ travelled in lands where man had no rights that were recognized; where ideals such as ours were drowned in blood.

I have seen the world's greatest symbol of freedom - the Stars and Stripes - flying over foreign battle-fields; Where brave men died - where heroes cried because of the ~~war~~ horrors that were too ghastly for the human mind to bear.

I have heard the bleatings of the minions of a vanquished enemy - pleading for mercy although they knew not the meaning of the word while they were putting to the torch and the sword - men and women who were guilty of no greater crime than that they loved honor more than peace.

I have read orders issued by those self-proclaimed rulers of the destiny of men - orders which condemned the innocent to torture and death.

I have seen cities and villages that were plundered and destroyed - fertile lands laid waste - women and children without food - without clothing - without sanity - almost without life; victims of the totalitarian's creed that might makes right.

Today, the victims of that totalitarian lust struggle for safety - struggle for recovery - struggle for life itself - with their eyes and their hearts turned toward the flag which Washington first unfurled - ~~from~~ ~~no other name when the world is in even the proximity of hope~~ toward the world's noblest standard of justice.

All I have seen - all I have heard - all I have read - convinces me that we can ~~never~~ no longer live alone in this complex world.

In the midst of the suffering and struggling which is to be found on every hand it often seems that this land of ours is in truth the last great hope of earth.

What we do here today - what America does every day - is watched with baited breath in a thousand hamlets and villages throughout the world.

There was a time when we lived securely between our own shores. We were little concerned with what went on elsewhere in the world. Perhaps it would be well if we could return to those days. But the inventive genius of man - if not the discoveries of science and developments of economics - make such a return impossible.

It may be that we could point to mistakes which could have been avoided. Perhaps we could have travelled along other ways. But those things must be left to historians. Only the present and the future are ours.

As we face

As we face the many and varied problems which will be ours in the period which is coming to be known as the Atomic Age what could serve us better than an injection of the courage and the fortitude which enabled the men of Washington's day to carve out here this great ^{monument} ~~tribute~~ to liberty and freedom and justice.

"Our mission", Washington said, "is to raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair". With that inspiration let us raise the standard that will encourage all men to abhor intollerance and injustice.

The path ahead is not easy. It presents a challenge which only the great will meet. There is the possibility of danger - there is even the possibility of failure - but the reward for success is the undying gratitude of all the little people everywhere. There is no decision that we can make that is without its price. But for the wrong decision in the present, the future will demand its inevitable revenge.

Though power mad dictators have been paid low - though our valiant fighting forces have been victorious in every quarter of the globe, our task has just begun. If we believe firmly in the need for peace and security then we must contribute to the building of a better world.

We have pledged our cooperation to all men who seek to build a world without war - and all I have seen - all I have heard - all I have read convinces me that there can be no finer guiding principles for our intercourse with the peoples of other lands - than the principles to which we adhere as Americans.

To me Americanism is the right to speak out against injustices - whether that injustice appears in high place or low. It is the obligation to be fair and honest - on the athletic field or around the council table. It is the freedom that lives in a man's soul. It is the strength

that flows from the knowledge that the cause is just. It is the quality
of living ~~and~~ *in the face of God & no man,*
at

I know full well the criticism that is directed ~~to~~ at any man who
would argue that there is a place for Christian ideals in international
relations. The criticism comes from those who call themselves realists
and who insist there is room only for the purely practical viewpoint.

But remove the influence of a Supreme Being from man's relations
with his fellow and there is no substitute but the law of the fang.

Wipe out the recognition of man's God given rights and there is
Totalitarianism - no matter what might be the name or the style under
which it parades.

Totalitarianism is always summoning its subjects to die. It cries
"You must follow me to be spared" and its minions proceed to lead freedom loving
people behind a curtain of secrecy where the voice of liberty can be
bludgeoned into silence - where diplomacy of the belly can make slaves of
men.

Little people lie in filth clamoring for a crust of bread - yet
the statesmen of realism say guns it must be. No butter - no bread -
vattle
Guns - Guns * Guns and from a thousand/fields voices of ~~dead~~ the dead
scream to a just God "Is this why I faced cannon and flame? Is this why
I bled? Is this why I died".

Never shall the voice or the thought of Ameruca accept such thinking.
Never shall our voice or our sympathies ~~such~~ lend encouragement or support
to such a philosophy. The creeping paralysis of totalitarianism once
threatened this great country. In the future its citizens must never hesitate
to speak out against ~~its~~ *such* abuses.

Drawing on the great example of perseverance furnished us by the life of Washington I am confident America will discharge its role with honor. By our example we shall demonstrate, please God, that it is possible for all men to live together - we must do so or perish.

By our insistence on truth in all our dealings we shall bring to an end the suspicion that springs from deceitful and disjointed language of diplomats. Our determined refusal to align ourselves with any cause which is unjust will demonstrate the ~~folky~~ folly of conquest.

To the men who have fought and returned to their homes - to the ~~men~~ ~~who have~~ memory of the men who have made the eternal sacrifice - to the parents - to the wives who have suffered - to the shattered homes to the babies who have been ~~denied~~ denied the right to be born - ~~because of~~ ~~maintained~~ because of the war through which we have just passed - To all these and to ourselves as Americans we owe a most solemn obligation. We must, we shall succeed in uprooting the seedlings of war.

A great American of Washington's day said "We can all hang together - or we'll all hang ~~together~~ separately."

I submit to you - in all sincerity - we can end war - or we can end mankind. We have no other alternative.