

Address delivered by Hon. John C. Fogarty, M.C. at the Jefferson Day Dinner held under the auspices of the Young Democrats of Reading, Penn., Saturday April 13, 1946.

Just a little more than two hundred years ago - there was born in the great Commonwealth of Virginia - a child who was destined to become the great radical of his day. In fact, he was to be called one day, the greatest radical of all time.

To night we commemorate his birthday, and how proud we can be that we are often referred to as the radical ~~self~~ of our day - in the same sense that Jefferson was the radical of his.

How grand a course for us to pursue - the trail along which the immortal Jefferson struggled against Emperors and Tories.

How noble a cause to support - the self-same cause which was Jefferson's - the cause of security for the common man in place of special privilege for the select few.

Today no heart beats in America that has not a profound love for the name and the memory of Jefferson. No mind stirs anywhere where democracy is enjoyed or ~~desired~~ prayed for without a grateful thanksgiving that such a man was allowed to live.

But it was not always so. When we read of the ~~days~~ days during which Jefferson lived and worked - we find that there were those who branded him an upstart, a theorist and a fool. And we know from history that without his indomitable courage, without his fierce determination, this great Democracy would have died aborning, for without him there might have been enthroned here in the infant republic a replica of the monarchy which freedom loving men had sworn to repudiate with their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honors.

Jefferson's days were filled with many dangers and the ideals for which he fought were under constant attack. His ~~unwavering~~ sincerity, his stick-to-it-iveness, made it possible for you and I to come here to night to pay our humble tribute to his ~~memory~~ memory - to thank God that he was at hand when the Republic needed him.

As followers of the great statesman we have grave responsibilities. And while it may be improper for us to compare ourselves with the immortal Jefferson, it is fair - it is more than fair, it is vital - that we adopt for ourselves some of his courage - some of his boldness - some of his fierce determination -, as we come to grips with the problems which face the people of our country.

We have come through a terrible ordeal of fire. The recent struggle has left its mark on every American home. It tooks years ~~to~~ under the pressure of a great war to ~~give~~ <sup>bring</sup> the Nation to the peak of a production concentrated on the sinews of war. In transforming that mighty machine to the production of things needed for peace there are bound to be difficulties. But as the party selected by the people to exercise the powers of government it is our responsibility to meet and to solve the manifold problems which war has left in its wake.

How shall we do this - by ~~a~~ show uncertainty and fear because the ~~course~~ course we ~~follow~~ follow is subject to attack and criticism? Or shall we redouble our faith in the people of our country and pursue the course we know to be right - in creasing our determination to ~~su~~ucceed in equal volume and strength with the criticisms and attacks which will become more noisy in the coming months?

Can there be one who doubts ~~which~~ for an instant which course Jefferson would have followed?

There may be some satisfaction in pursuing a course which seeks to compromise with all critics. There may be some men in politics who still strive to be all things to all people. I think I am safe in saying that has never been the course of a genuine ~~Democrat~~ *disciple of Thomas Jefferson*

There are certain fundamental things ~~for~~ we stand for. There are ~~principles~~ ideals we believe in. There are principles we'll fight for and we can't even consider, <sup>especially</sup> compromise on this night when we pay our humble debt of gratitude to the founder of our Party.

We are Democrats, not because it happens to be the party blessed with power at the moment. God knows it ~~isn't~~ seems cursed with ~~so many~~ enough difficulties to more than outweigh any blessings that come with that power it is supposed to possess. But we are Democrats in heart and mind because there are those things within us that cry out against exploitation and special privilege. We still subscribe with all our vigor to the words of Jefferson "Equal <sup>rights</sup> ~~Justice~~ for all - special privileges for none".

We are democrats, in the last analysis because we believe, down deep in our hearts, in the strength of Democracy and because we have faith that the common people are the greatest bulwarks of that democracy.

Democracy is more than a name for a kind of government. It is at once a hope and a prayer, and ~~it's~~ a shiboleth - a war cry. It is the hope and prayer of all peoples everywhere who seek justice and decency - who believe that government, under God, exists through the consent of the governed. It is the shiboleth of all people everywhere who believe their rights are worth protecting, who believe that justice is worth fighting for.

Democracy exacts of every man a price. Like peace, it demands eternal vigilance. We must always fight against the current of reaction that is typified by the minority party's present appeal for a return to normalcy. We must always fight against these who ~~seek to compromise~~ seek the destruction of our democracy

racy while they enjoy the complete freedom of speech and action which they could find no where else in all the world.

We witnessed a return to normalcy, such as some now advocate, after the first world war. With that so-called normalcy we were treated to an exhibition of democracy in reverse. The privileged few set out to plunder the wealth of the country, and their reckless disregard for the rights of the average American brought this proud land to the brink of bankruptcy and revolution.

In those days the nation's resources were exploited for personal gain. A crooked gang of greedy politicians fastened itself on Washington and brought our Nation's capitol into world wide disgrace. The ~~vain~~ vaunted stock-market became no better than a crooked crap-game. Profit and personal gain was the order of the day. Millions walked the streets in search of jobs that did not exist - suicides and bankruptcies were commonplace and the overlords of the GOP - the same elements which still control the destinies of that party - mouthed fine phrases about corners around which prosperity lurked - and around which hungry fathers peered in vain.

\* There ~~need~~ <sup>can</sup> never be - there need never be - if we have but a jot of faith in the people of our country - a return to the soul-sickening days of the roaring twenties with their heartaches and discouragement and despair.

~~We need now, to make sure we shall prevent such a disaster, a rekindling of the fire that burned in the heart of the founder of our Party when he stood against powerful opponents and fought for his belief in the dignity of every individual. We need now, his faith in the common man - in the destiny of his country - we need the same zeal that prompted him to cry "If there is to be revolution - then let it be now"~~

The man who was termed the greatest radical of his day wrote into the greatest document in political history those words which ring through the corridors of time..."...all men are created equal --and are endowed by their creator with



The indifferent, irresponsible attitude of the GOP was arrested, thank God, by the arrival on the scene of one of the greatest of Americans who ever lived, a disciple of Thomas Jefferson's, the ~~immortal~~ man of destiny, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. And daily Americans thanked Heaven that he had arrived in the nick of time.

He brought America out of the doldrums. He inspired confidence. He produce results. He taught and he acted to produce the greatest good for the greatest numbers. He brought into being a new and true conception of Jeffersonian Democracy in tune with the conditions of the times. His was not a stodgy, lifeless conception of Democracy. His was ~~not~~ a dynamic Democracy. His accomplishments brought new hope to the little people all over the world.

certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness".

It is easy to sound fine phrases - as today all men in the public eye swear their belief in the Declaration of Independence. But it is another thing to be willing to fight to put life into ~~the words~~ the words of that declaration - to see they have meaning above and beyond the paper on which they are inscribed.

Actions speak louder than words and the time is at hand when we need less speech-making and more actions - if this democracy of ours is to prove able to meet its responsibilities.

It is easy enough to say Americans have life and liberty and recite again the great deeds of pioneers and warriors. But the father of a family driven into the streets by the lords of special privilege - the mother whose ears ring with the plaintive wailings of hungry children - they care naught about the symbolic meaning of life and liberty in the Declaration of Independence.

A politician can make the rafters ring with grand speeches about the happiness of an American ~~man~~ who recalls the fame of those who felled the trees, bridged the rivers of the continent and built the grand cities of the country. But the ~~man~~ man and woman who are busy raising a family of young Americans - who ~~is~~ <sup>she</sup> faced with the prospects of an insecure old age cares little who drove the golden spike in the Union Pacific - or whether Harriman won his battle royal with J. Pierpont Morgan.

There is more to Democracy than just a name for a ~~type of~~ system of Government. There is blood and flesh - there is a mind and a heart - there are the tears and the worries and the fears and the concerns of a hundred and thirty million people of all kinds and sorts. There is the veteran who wants a home instead of a tirade about ~~the~~ bureaucrats. There is the man who wants a job ~~instead~~ instead of an insertion in the Congressional record about the evils of the PAC. There is the father and mother who have produced young men

to whom  
women for their God and country - ~~they want~~ real Social Security ~~far more~~  
~~than~~ is far more important than a diatribe about Paternalism in government.  
There is in democracy the constant surge of all that goes to make up human  
nature; the constant desire for betterment, the ever-present longing for  
security - the constant and never-ending revolt against injustice, whether  
it is political or economic.

Democracy has to live and breath. It ~~has to burn~~ must burn with a lively  
flame else it dies. And those appostles of special privilege who plead for a  
return to the good old days - who prayerfully wail that government be given  
back to the people - so their pockets can be picked with greater ease - they  
plead at the same time - though they seem not to realize it - for the obliteration  
of private enterprise of which they are the self-appointed champions. I say  
this because I am confident the common people of America will never again  
accept the torture and nightmares that were served up to them by a political  
party which denied it had any responsibilities whatever to the common man.

I believe there is nothing sacred about old ~~methods~~, old ~~ways~~. I believe there is nothing vicious about change.

We have seen great change, thank God during the last fourteen years. Pray  
God we shall see more of the same kind.

As young democrats we are sworn to a course of action that will produce change.  
The kind of change that shoved whale-oil lamps into the discard. The kind of  
change that brought automobiles instead of wagons. The kind of change that ~~will~~  
has produced a new conception of social security. ~~The kind of change that will~~  
~~produce an ever-broadening conception of that social security.~~ The kind of  
change that will result in the recognition that there must be full employment  
for all able and willing to work - if democracy here is to live and prosper.

**\* THE FOUNDER OF OUR PARTY**  
~~He~~ believed in change which brought progress. We must reaffirm our  
faith in the same kind of change and progress.

He believed the laborer was worthy of more ~~consideration~~ than ~~the~~ crumbs

\* The minority party, apparently, believes in change also. But it seems to preach and practice a ~~new~~ kind of change which amounts to going from bad to worse.

It talks on the one hand of its determination to become an aggressive force in the life of America - and when the opportunity presents itself, the GOP sells out, lock stock and barrell - and with enthusiasm - to the most ~~more~~ reactionary element within its councils.

It has contented itself during the past fourteen years with attacks on the person of Roosevelt. It never had a program or a policy to which it was willing to adhere, except that of gaining the most for the few who ~~operated it~~ controlled its operations. The minority party has not, in fourteen years, suggested a constructive idea. It has none to suggest today. The most it can produce is a ~~gongom~~ <sup>mean</sup> conglomeration of glittering generalities which attempts to ~~be~~ all things to all people. It is devoid of purpose. It is devoid of confidence and after the election in November it will be devoid of hope.



which luckily fell from the master's board. He believed he would be establishing the republic on a firm foundation if he demonstrated that the common man has a real ~~interest~~ stake in its government. In spite of the monarchists and economic royalists - those who believed in progress and security made Jefferson the third President of his country - and this guaranteed-not Jefferson's place in history - that had already been established - but they guaranteed this Republic's place among the Nations of the world.

Our Party today ~~pursues the same~~ seeks the same goal as did Jefferson.

The waters ~~with~~ we must cross ~~with~~ are stormy - they will always be stormy - but I am confident we shall ~~always~~ be successful in spite of/<sup>any</sup> temporary set-backs. ~~from~~

As a Democrat I'll take my stand with the common people of the United States - the men and women who have contributed most toward our country's present greatness.

All over this battered and bleeding earth ~~there~~ the little people look this way for ~~hope~~ a ray of hope. They pray for peace and security - they beg for bread. But while their diplomats make pilgrimages to Washington to solicit the loan of some dollars for trade and rebuilding, ~~the~~ the little people look to the average American man and woman. They look to see <sup>in their hearts.</sup> if Democracy still lives - ~~if it still has strength enough to grow and become greater.~~ ~~The average American man and woman is the last hope~~ Does Democracy mean more than a ~~bank statement on a stockholder's report~~ financial report or a granite structure on wall street? Does democracy mean bread in a man's stomach - does it mean a home and a garden and shoes on kids feet? Does it mean a secure ~~and~~ ~~work~~ old age free from fear of the poor house? This is what we've claimed for it? It is your job and mine to make it click - We are young democrats, ~~We~~ can't ~~fail~~ <sup>THAT OF</sup> prove unworthy of our faith. Our goal must be Jefferson's - For all Americans - Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.