

Speech delivered by JEF at dinner for Fr. Slavin of P.C. at Biltmore Hotel,
Sunday - October 26, 1947

I am greatly honored and very proud to be numbered among the friends of Father Slavin, President of Providence College.

Nothing I could say would add one jot to the fame of this great educator - or would effect in any way the position he occupies in the minds and hearts of all who have met him.

Because of my love for Providence College I am grateful to the Superiors of the Order of Preachers for having sent one so learned, so capable to guide ~~our college~~ direct the activities of our College.

In times such as those we live in ~~there~~^{man} is need of many things. ~~All the world struggles to gain possession of~~ Of the material things of life - it is evident there isn't half enough to go "round. In the constant struggle ~~for~~ of each individual to get his share - or a little over to sort of guarantee against future want - most of us seem to forget there are other things far more important than what a dollar will buy.

Because this is so the world needs more men of God like Father Slavin. It seems that many individuals and nations have become indifferent to God and spiritual values are no longer the driving force of their lives and their existence.

Because so many have become indifferent to truth they have become easy targets for the shattering attacks of propaganda, emotionalism and false prophets.

Then the dignity of the human being is forgotten or deliberately put aside and noble hopes and ambitions cease to be an influence.

Such an attitude confronts every educator whose privilege it is to help mold the minds of young men. In the present day Father Slavin is much like a leader of pioneers at the head of the great staff at

~~the~~

the college.

They are our best hope for ~~the~~ rekindling the fire of faith and confidence and honesty. In their noble ideals lies our best hope of eliminating the dark barriers of hatred, intolerance, selfishness and evil.

Again, let me say, I am proud to be here. My best wishes are for your continued good health, Father Slavin, and my prayers for the success of the great mission upon which you are embarked.