

ADDRESS BY HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, U. S., 2nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, OVER MUTUAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM ON PROGRAM ENTITLED "FAITH IN OUR TIME", TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1952, 12:45 to 1:00 P.M.

"We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being." Thus spoke the Supreme Court of the United States, within the week, when it decided that our Constitution did NOT forbid the release of children from public schools, for a few minutes each week, so that they might attend classes wherein they would learn a little something about the God who made them.

The Supreme Court was speaking of all the people of the United States when it made that statement - and it seems to me - and I have thought of this many times - it seems to me that it would be well if every one of us would try to steal two or three minutes out of every day for a thought or two on the role which God plays in our daily lives. It takes only a minute or so, but the possibilities - if every American would adopt the practice - are tremendous.

I am bothered constantly by the realization that at no time in history have the efforts of science and industry been so well coordinated to provide man with all his material needs. Of these things we boast - but rarely is there a word of thanks to Almighty God, who in His goodness has made these things available to us.

In our great country we boast of our material greatness - and we use our important and successful position as a standard of value in measuring the progress - or lack of it - of all the peoples of the world. So persistent

and so dominant has been the emphasis on material comfort - that the thinking of all our people, I fear, has become distorted.

We find material values displacing moral values. We judge a man by the money he spends; the home he owns; the car he drives. The man with the beautiful things is a successful man; the man with a large family - living in a house that needs painting - and driving a second-hand car - he, poor fellow, is a failure.

Talk with your associates and see if it is not true - as you must have admitted to yourself many times - that the driving force in ~~our~~ <sup>MANY OF OUR</sup> lives - is the urge to get more and better things of a material nature - (a bank account, a home in a desirable neighborhood, a new car, and clothes which will knock the neighbors' hats off).

Maybe the obtaining of these things might involve a "little" deceit, or a "white lie" here and there. But if you base your standards on economic necessity and the dominating influences of a materialistic society - then the "little" deceit and the "white lie" are easily justified.

It may be that the way to the bank account and the better things of life lies in the fulfilling of a political ambition; mere lofty position in a state or federal department of Government - or election to a prominent public office. Though a man will produce evidence which, he thinks, demonstrates beyond the shadow of a doubt that his personal life is exemplary - many times, it has been shown, a man will not shrink from subtle

suggestions, or even character assassination if need be, to win the promotion or the election which to him is all important.

I admit, readily, that ambition is a good thing. Every man worth his salt should be striving every day in every way to provide for his family all the good things which a good God has made available to us poor mortals. But I insist, without God in a man's daily life, there is no accomplishment that is worthwhile.

The good God has provided many things with which to make man's life enjoyable. To man, God has given of the fullness of His nature. But God asks certain things in return. It seems to me - an ordinary mortal who has struggled with parking regulations, wage and price controls, and federal, state and municipal tax laws of all kinds, that it is foolish to argue that a "free" man should always be allowed to "do as he pleases."

Because neither the individual nor the family is completely independent and self-sustained, there is the need for an organized civil society. There follows the recognition of mutual responsibilities of the individual and family on the one hand and of the civil government of society on the other hand.

The individual must sustain the government of his civil society - by his active participation. Even though this participation be only through the medium of voting, it IS a responsibility. THAT government of civil society must sustain the individual and the family which is the bedrock of our democratic society.

This recognition of responsibility, God asks of all of us - our responsibility to our fellowman, our families, and to the civil government of society in general.

In everything we do - in our private lives as in our public lives; in the intimate confines of our homes - in our associations with our neighbors, our friends and our business associates - there must be a recognition of the authority of God if we hope to avoid the moral decay which has brought other nations to grief.

To my way of thinking there are not two standards of morality - one for my daily life - another for my public life. There is only one. It is God's standard. That single standard covers all man's relations to God, to himself and to all the world in which he lives. It applies to every conceivable situation in life - in the home, in business, in politics, and every walk of life.

If a man will be true to his Creator - he cannot condone a double standard which not only tempts a man to live his life in two separate compartments - but convinces him that this can be done without any compromise of moral principles.

We have a common expression in this country. Every so often we hear a person referred to as "two-faced." The man who pays lip-service to God while ignoring the part God plays in his daily life - and his public life - is "two-faced."

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Our people, as the Supreme Court of the land, has again proclaimed, is a religious people. Religion - infused into our daily lives will produce a single standard of morality of which all of us can and will be proud. Only religion can supply the driving force which is the absolute essential of a life well-lived. There is a place for religion in our daily lives no matter what form of society we move in. If religion is permitted - I would rather say encouraged - to exercise its influence on our lives - then we can expect that all men charged with the responsibility of government - will discharge their duties faithfully and well. The great Father of his country in his Farewell Address said -

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports... reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."