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ADDRESS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY AT COMMUNION-BREAKFAST,
ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, APPONAUG, RHODE ISLAND, MAY 16, 1954.

When I received your committee's invitation to come here,
and I found that the business of the Congress would permit my
absence from Washington at this time, I fell to wondering just
what I could talk about.

I was thinking about it one day - a little over a week ago.
My Appropriations Committee meeting was just breaking up. I was
not too happy about the way things had gone, and I was in the midst
of a lot of thoughts about the way I would have liked to handle
things had I still been the Chairman.

A member of my Committee staff slipped a note across the
table to me. On it he had written the information that the
Associated Press was then announcing the fall of Dien Bien Phu.

I confess I experienced a feeling something like "Ah -
what's the use?"

I had been led to believe, over the past several weeks, that the successful defense of this outpost was of the utmost importance to the future of the free world. Its gallant defense, which ranks with the Alamo, as one of the most heroic demonstrations of the will of men under arms - had become by the deliberate representations of those charged with the administration of our foreign policy - a symbol of the free world's defense in the face of attacks by the swarming hordes of red Russia and her minions.

The sudden news of the over-running of this bastion - though many of us had felt that it must ultimately fall - left me with a feeling of personal loss.

Out of my feeling of depression came some thoughts which I would like to mention to you this morning.

I wondered about the A Bomb and the H Bomb and the possibilities of its use in Indo-China, or wherever else the enemy might

strike the next blow. I got to thinking about the developments of the men of our age who are all bracketed in one easy phrase - the scientists.

Not too long ago my idea of science was a college, or high school laboratory. I feel certain that most of you men, until very recently, enjoyed the same delusion. Science meant test tubes and experiments. It meant the exploration of the many facets of our civilization which are important to our material being. These men, who made up this group which we referred to as scientists, seemed to live in a world which was different than ours, and I think we were inclined to consider them with a shrug and a smile. They were dreamers and their concerns need not interfere with the normal flow of our lives.

But now it is something like sulphur and molasses that brings the shrug and the smile. We find that our ordinary lives, or everyday existence, is intertwined with the discoveries and

developments of the men of science. We live in a day of penicillin and ACTH and other wonder drugs. To these great men of science today we acknowledge our deepest thanks for the things they have brought into being to make our lives and the lives of our families more healthy and wholesome. We acknowledge the many things science has contributed to the making of a more orderly and pleasant existence.

At the same time we acknowledge, at least I do, a constant worry about the contribution which science has made to the disordering of the outlook which we have on the world of tomorrow.

I wondered, too, as I sat there in my moody spirit, how much the average man and woman in America knows or cares about the terrible prospects which seem to stretch out before us.

I thought - there must be something - some way - to bring home the conscious knowledge that there is something - some extra something needed to give us the courage and the desire to know science -

to endeavor to understand its import - and to face up to the responsibilities which modern day science has forced upon us.

I came to the conclusion that this priceless ingredient is sanctity, without which no development can be classed an accomplishment.

I look upon sanctity in an extremely personal and intimate way. To me it is not merely something possessed by one praying in a chapel. I consider sanctity as a driving force in man's everyday life. To me sanctity has something to do with my concept of honor.

God made me. To do him honor, I must maintain that sanctity which he ordered for me. And that sanctity embodies many things. It means first being honest to my God. It means being honest to myself. It means, in its complete sense, being honest to my fellowman.

And I thought - if every American would be honest to himself and to his fellowman - then no American would be lackadaisical. He would

have a greater a ~~greater~~ awareness of what citizenship means.

There would be a little less insistence upon the rights of citizenship and there would be a more acute awareness of the responsibilities of citizenship.

There would be a little less thought to what the citizen could do for his own personal betterment today - there would be a much greater determination to do all he possibly could to make this a better country - a better world - for those who are to come after. That type of citizen would be preoccupied in making this a bit better world for his having lived in it.

Putting it bluntly, I think, we have come to a point where there is too much status-quo ism.

There was a time when we were really vigilant - when we were aggressive. We found time, in the midst of the multitude of things connected with our daily pursuits - to examine closely the many facets of our life as an organized society - and when we found shortcomings

in our governmental structure - or its administration - we did something concrete - something specific about it.

Our fathers were determined that we were going to have better circumstances than they had known in which to grow and develop into good citizens. They insisted on better schools - better working conditions so that they could provide more for their families - more in the purely economic sense through a better wage - more in the sense of time for their children - through shorter working hours.

They believed that every living individual was a real member of society. They held their little meetings in union halls, and parish church basements; in private homes and school-class rooms, and any other type of meeting place which was available to them. They had but one purpose - to impress upon their fellowmen - and through them to impress upon government - the fact that government exists here because of the consent of the governed - and for the purpose of servng the governed.

Because of their insistence, there was no status-quo ism. Society grew and developed. Government was responsive to the will of the people and because it was responsive, it was progressive.

Out of the world of dreams came the actual fact of a place in the sun for the man who worked in mill or factory; or labored in ditch and trench - or with trowel and hammer.

The bookkeeping system of the company store was recognized as an evil thing; and the stretch-out - the black-ball and the yellow-dog contract became things which we are glad are gone forever.

Homeownership became a fairly common thing, and a college education was no longer something a working man wished for his son, but could not provide.

Families of the nation were made to feel secure in their savings through bank deposit insurance. Bucket-shop operators were driven from the market place; and the harrowing fear of a penniless old-age, which had existed through the centuries, was wiped out

through a program of insurance for the aged - and survivors of those who had toiled long hours in the building of this industrial empire.

The laboring man was at long last recognized as an honorable member of the community, and his self-chosen representatives were permitted to enter the board-room to discuss betterment of his conditions of employment.

These are some of the accomplishments of vigilance - the accomplishments of men and women who refused to be lulled to sleep by pious platitudes about preserving the status quo.

In their day - not long since passed - people spoke out boldly - demanding to know all the facts about the functioning of their government - at home and abroad. Possessing all the facts, they made courageous decisions which made this nation respected before all the peoples of the world.

Today we seem prone to listen to the siren voice telling us that all will be well; there is no real need for concern. One more

piece of negotiation, one more adjustment of the budget, one more month - or year - for the readjustment period - and we can go back to our temporarily interrupted slumbers.

I would not disturb anyone who enjoys the blind peace of mind that is as much a part of the point of view that I call status-quo ism - as is the spirit of a broken man. But to me, such a man is not honest to himself. He is not honest to his fellowman. He believes everything that can be done has been done; everything that can be accomplished has been accomplished; everything that can be said has been said.

Such a self-satisfied person reminds me of the famous story of Lord Joseph Lister who pleaded for the hand of the daughter of a Scotch nobleman. Lister was studying medicine and the nobleman told him he was foolish - everything that could be discovered or developed in the field of medicine had already been made known to the world. Medicine had no future. He sent Lister away.

Joseph Lister did not get the bride he sought but he pursued his studies in medicine, and today we honor his memory as the father of modern antiseptic surgery.

There is still much to be done, in our own day. Only a God-fearing, alert, enlightened citizenry can guarantee that the right things will be done.

All of us, I think are obligated to recognize facts and to take a firm hand in the operation of our government in order to sponsor and promote the good things which government can accomplish for its citizens - and to strive to eliminate whatever shortcomings there are which work against the best interests of those citizens.

In the same spirit, I insist we have a right to know - we have a duty to inquire - what commitments have been made - what commitments are contemplated - which involve our country in the world's deepening crisis.

Much is happening - much more is bound to happen. I wish to be ready. I dislike, intensely, the idea of leaving things as they are - with a head-in-the-sand attitude - in the hope that, if ignored, worries will evaporate and problems care for themselves.

I have complete confidence in the American people, and if told ALL the facts, I am unshakable in my faith that they will make the right decisions.

Let me then leave you with this thought. While victory does not always perch on the banner of the valiant, eternal vigilance is still the price of liberty. Knowledge of all the facts, we MUST have - to get a well thought-out appreciation of the consequences of any decision we make based on those facts.

Faith should be ours that the hand of God will continue to protect the destiny of this nation.

Hope and confidence must never be allowed to die - for failure is the lot ONLY of the man who despairs.