

Sen Jordan + Katherine

Gov Moore
Gov Hodges
Sen Jordan

ADDRESS OF

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY.

BENNETT PLACE COMMEMORATION

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

April 25, 1965

April is an historic month for our country.

It is the month when we commemorate the ~~deaths of~~ *lives + works death of*

Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt.

It is also the month when we commemorate the end of *the most*
tragic and ~~the~~ costliest war this nation has ever fought.

For the past several years the American people have
been observing Civil War centennial events. But I must say,
on occasion been
I have ~~often been~~ disturbed by some of these observances.

LOT For too often the re-enactment of historic battles tends
to make war seem romantic. *to glorify the battle.*

But War is not romantic. War is ugly, cruel and senseless. *Shame*
War is Hell!

We are not gathered today to commemorate a war -- *nor are*
we ~~gathered~~ *merely* gathered to commemorate the end of a war.

L We are here to pay tribute to the valiant men of the
North and the South who met 100 years ago here at Bennett
Place to seek peace — *Peace with understanding — Mutual
respect — Peace with Progress*

L The man in grey -- General Johnston -- and the man in
blue -- General Sherman -- were two of the finest soldiers
this nation ever produced. *their armies* They had fought each other for
more than four years. *L* Their profession was war. Their

goal was victory. But when they met here at Bennett Place
they searched for peace with honor. *(Soldiers more peaceful
than cowards) —*

L They sought a goal that would make worthwhile the
supreme sacrifices of more than 600,000 Confederate and
Union soldiers.

L This goal was unity — ~~Union — Liberty — Justice~~

L The promise of America -- a growing, mighty America --
was but a distant dream when these men met as spring came
to a tortured nation. *L* But, these men had the courage and
vision to place their trust in the strength of an ideal.

That ideal was unity.

The terms of the peace plan set forth by General Sherman were similar to the lines of conciliation agreed upon by Grant and Lee At Appomattox -- a policy that had been outlined by President Lincoln.

But unfortunately the efforts of Johnston and Sherman were frustrated. *Generals* Secretary of War Stanton repudiated the terms offered by General Sherman.

"I am distressed beyond measure at the terms," Secretary Stanton said. "They are inadmissable. There should now be literally no terms granted. We should not only brand the leading rebels with infamy, but the whole rebellion should bear the badge of the penitentiary."

What a shame it was that *everyone in our* ~~all of our~~ country at that trying time could not have agreed with the words of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox:

"We have fought this fight as long as, and
as well as, we know how ... For us ... there
is but one course to pursue. We must accept
the situation ... and proceed to build up our
country on a new basis."

✓ All this is now history. It is behind us. But
we can learn from it. ✓ From the vantage point of 100 years
later, we know that the Reconstruction period was a
distressing chapter in the history of America. ✓ We have
learned the bitter lesson that the spirit of regional
vindictiveness and political opportunism contribute nothing
to the general welfare of our country.

✓ Indeed, all this demented spirit can contribute is
a heritage of rancor and bitterness and hatred.

and We should always remember this lesson from the past. *For*
the radicalism that dominated the Reconstruction era is a vivid
example of the ~~mindless~~ *senseless*, vengeful kind of extremism that even
today, if left unchecked, could bring our great democracy to its
knees.

We must never permit vengeful radicals to dominate the
American scene. We must never permit the spirit of radicalism *-ghats-*
to poison the minds and hearts of the American people. This
is the real lesson of Bennett Place.

I believe the American people have learned this lesson. And
now our great nation -- under the leadership of President Johnson
-- is beginning a new era of unity.

Men learn from history. But men also make history.
And today President Johnson and the Congress, having learned
their history, are building a lasting, long-term base of national
unity upon which we can create our own future.

I believe that we are approaching that point in our history when
the ~~senseless~~ struggle of class against class -- region against
region -- and race against race will be ended.

L I believe we are reaching the goal set forth by President Johnson when he said: "Some day we will see an America that knows no North or South, no East or West -- and America undivided by creed or color, untorn by suspicion or strife."

L I might add that only such an undivided America will be able to carry the burden of freedom in the world -- a burden we must carry if we are to preserve democracy *now and in the future.*

L We are now, in unity, fully developing our most important resources: our human resources.

President Johnson has proposed -- and your Congress is passing -- legislation which will help create the

freedom ~~and security we seek~~

L Programs to provide adequate medical care *for the elderly* -- *Programs* to better educate *our* children ... to eradicate poverty ...

person to give each ~~man and woman in this country~~ truly equal opportunity.

These investments carry a price tag.

But the cost of national problems like illiteracy, school dropouts, poverty, delinquency, and yes -- discrimination -- is far greater than the cost of our efforts to overcome these things.

We spend 450 dollars a year per child in our public schools. But we spend 1800 dollars a year to keep a delinquent in a detention home ... 2500 dollars a year for a family on relief ... and 3500 dollars a year for an inmate in state prison

We must make the investments necessary so that all in our society may be productive. Poor and uneducated people are poor consumers. They are a drain on our economy. They are wasted resources.

I believe the South will help lead the way during this new era of national unity — *of national Progress.*

I believe the people of the South will help us lead the way as we bring an end to obstruction and paralysis and liberate

the energies of a mighty people.

I believe the people of the South will help us lead the way as we fight to overcome the ancient enemies of man -- ignorance, disease, poverty and injustice.

Already we have seen evidence that the New South is pointing the way as America's number 1 economic miracle.

North
Carolina

It is forging ahead with a pace of economic development that is the wonder and the envy of every section of the country.

The South no longer is an economy of low incomes, cheap labor and a single crop. The South now produces 40 percent of our nation's forest products, half of our nation's minerals, 53 percent of our petroleum, 76 percent of our natural gas and 100 percent of our sulphur and bauxite.

The New South is an economy of diversification, an economy of working people who are building fine homes, an economy of farmers who are earning higher incomes, and economy of new industry that serves all America.

I am confident the South will continue to move forward

with a powerful thrust -- not only economically, but also socially and politically.

Our country draws strength from its present-day unity.

For it is a unity based not on force or compulsion, but on mutual respect and a common belief in the dignity of man.

The real struggle in the world today is over man's dignity. *This is at the heart of the civil rights movement* The real difference between the totalitarian

and the free world is in the understanding of the worth of man -- *all men.*

Here in America we really believe that God created man in His own image -- that there is a spark of the divine in every human being. And because we believe that man was created by a divine force, we also believe that no other man has the right to govern or rule him without his consent.

This is the basic commitment of our great country. Our children state it every day in school when they recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States
of America and to the Republic for which it stands -- One
Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice
for all."

L We preserved this one nation out of a terrible war.

Now our task is to work together, in unity, to build the

America begun but never completed.

always
new America - because America
is the future and for freedom
there is no future without
an America that is united
and inspired.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 30, 1965

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

BENNETT PLACE COMMEMORATION

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The true unity of our Nation is more than a union of States. It is a unity of spirit, of human hearts, and aspirations and hopes. It is not static but is ever growing, for its work is never done.

The true spirit of American unity is one of challenge, of new goals to be sought and won. It is the spirit of ceaseless striving by all of us--by Americans of every generation--to attain those great common purposes that spring from our rich and marvelous diversity and yet transcend it.

A moving and poignant example of this spirit occurred nearly one hundred years ago in the peace negotiations between General William T. Sherman and General Joseph E. Johnston, held at the Bennett Place, near the City of Durham, North Carolina. Those opposing generals sought more than a mere cessation of hostilities, more than a reunion of States. They looked to the future. They sought a peace for a reunited people, a peace that would be nationwide in scope, permanent in duration, and based on mutual understanding, fraternal affection, and concord of purpose.

By a joint resolution approved March 29, 1965, the Congress of the United States has requested the President to issue a proclamation reminding the American people of the spirit of national unity that is symbolized by the Bennett Place, near the City of Durham, North Carolina, and of commemorative ceremonies to be held there by the Governor and people of the State of North Carolina on April 25, 1965.

ADDRESS OF
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
BENNETT PLACE COMMEMORATION
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

APRIL 25, 1965

Thank you, Governor Moore, thank you once again for your gracious introduction and for your warm and genuine hospitality.

Governor Moore, Mrs. Humphrey and I want you to know -- you and Mrs. Moore to know -- that we are extremely grateful for the many courtesies that have been extended to us by you in your home in the Governor's Mansion -- the privilege of meeting members of your family -- and becoming acquainted with many of your close friends. But Above all, Governor, Mrs. Humphrey and I would want you and the people of North Carolina to know that we have enjoyed every minute of our stay here and that everything that we have ever heard at any time about southern hospitality has been verified again and again and again by the good people of this state -- and we do thank you. I only hope we can do so well when you this summer visit the state of Minnesota for the Governor's Conference -- and I should like to say to Senator Jordan that I will make it my business to see that the Governor counts every one of those 10,000 lakes. In fact, that's a very modest statement. The Chamber of Commerce of our state insists that there are 22,000 lakes. Of course, I must confess we shortened up the size of the lakes to get that count -- but we are very proud of our summer recreation areas and we cordially invite each and every one of you to pay us a visit.

My respects to the Reverend Clergy, to all of the many distinguished guests that are here today -- and may I join with others who have paid their compliment and respect to the great institutions of learning in this area of America -- and I am fully aware of the importance

of the research and development, Senator. Your Governor and your two senators, Senator Sam Erwin -- Senator Everett Jordan -- they have told me that every research dollar that the federal government has should come to North Carolina. And they have explained to the President and to the Vice-President and to many of the officers of this government of ours how well it would be and how good it would be to have research institutions and facilities brought into this great complex of educational institutions in this immediate vicinity -- and I want you to know that I am very favorably inclined.

Senator Jordan, I recall that it was North Carolina State University, even though they have changed names once in a while -- and I have visited these great schools and I intend to come more often to the University of North Carolina -- to North Carolina State University -- to North Carolina College -- to the many private institutions that you have here -- and may I say to President Knight of Duke University how grateful we are to the President and Mrs. Knight -- to the trustees -- and to the student body and faculty of that wonderful institution of learning -- for the wonderful reception that they extended to us last night.

I do wish to pay my respects to the band. I do this -- not only because of their participation in this important commemorative event -- but because the band represents our military establishment -- our country -- It's of the 82nd Airborne Division -- one of the most famous and honored divisions of the armed services of the United States -- Fort Bragg. I know there are members here of the Marine Corps and other services -- and as Vice President -- I want to commend them for their wonderful good work -- and above all for the fact that they stand guard at the ramparts of freedom everywhere in the world today and in the days to come.

Earlier today we had the privilege of visiting with a very distinguished former public servant of yours -- Governor Luther Hodges. I don't know if Luther is here right now -- but I admire him so much for his good work.

Yesterday we visited with Congressman Kornegay who has already made a splendid presentation. I gather that both the congressman and the senator may be up for election. They both were so charming and exciting in their commentary today. At the airport yesterday we were met by the congressman of the Fourth District, Mr. Cooley-- and we had quite a reception. And then my old friend here from the Senate staff, Bill Creech, brought the greetings of that Senior Senator of yours -- and we call him Judge -- Judge Sam Erwin -- who knows more law and more good stories than any man I've ever met.

How wonderful it is to see a gentleman of some years that yet is youthful in spirit -- and today, Mrs. Humphrey and I, and you, have had the privilege of visiting with and being in the company of this fine gentleman -- who loves his country so much -- is so proud of his state -- so filled with the history of this republic. Of course, you know I speak of none other than Mr. R. O. Everett, Sr. -- and I join also with his son in paying respects to Mrs. Everett and to Robinson Everett, who has been the chairman and presiding officer here today. I think Mr. Everett deserves our thanks.

Governor Moore, it must be a great satisfaction in being governor of a state that is moving ahead and I sense that satisfaction in your every word and your every act -- and I hope that this visit today and yesterday by Mrs. Humphrey and myself may indicate to you not only a personal good wish and compliment -- but that the whole nation indeed has its eyes upon you as a leader -- as a state -- and as a people. To be here on this wonderful afternoon -- oh, a little chilly -- but frankly I must confess it is good climate for us from up north. This is a wonderfully happy day -- commemorative day -- a day of the past -- and a day of the future -- and your state has so much of the future in it and yet such a rich past.

The month of April is a very historic month for our country. I suppose that if you examined the chapters of history -- you would see that many great things have happened in April -- and many tragedies. Wars have an uncanny way of starting in April -- and peace -- thank goodness -- has had a way of being found in April. April in America is a month when we commemorate the life and works -- yes -- and the death of great men. Two that I think of immediately -- Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The Lincoln who asked us to bind up our wounds -- the Lincoln who called America the last best hope on earth -- and the Lincoln who said with malice towards none and with charity for all, but with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right. We commemorate the life and the works -- yes -- and the death of a great patriot. And Mr. Roosevelt -- Franklin Roosevelt -- who reminded this Nation that we had a rendezvous with destiny -- who reminded us that we had nothing to fear but fear itself -- and who told us in his dying moments that the only limits of our future were the doubts of today. These are great men and they gave us great inspiration. The month of April is also the month when we commemorate the end of the most tragic and the costliest war that this nation has ever fought -- brother fought brother -- families were divided -- states were torn apart.

For the past several years the American people have been observing the Civil War centennial events. But I must say that on some occasions I have been somewhat disturbed by some of these observances when -- though in the main -- they have all been wonderful. Too often the reenactment of historic battles tends to make war -- yes -- war itself seem romantic -- to glorify the bloodshed -- but my fellow citizens -- as the great soldiers will tell you -- war is not romantic. War is ugly -- war is cruel -- war is senseless -- and Sherman was right -- war is hell. So we're not gathered here to commemorate a war -- nor indeed are we even gathered here to commemorate the ending of a war. We are here to pay tribute to the valiant men of the North and the South who met 100 years ago here at

Bennett Place -- in this very hallowed ground -- to seek not victory -- not vengence -- not vendication -- but to seek peace. And peace with understanding -- and peace with honor -- and peace with mutual respect. When you study history -- and by the way, the little pamphlet that many of you have is commemorative pamphlet. You will note, for example, at Appomattox when Lee and Grant met to discuss the terms of peace, they were men of peace even though warriors - soldiers. They were much more charitable and much more kind to one another than the civilians of their time. As were these generals that met here within a few feet of where you stand and sit. They knew what war was and they wanted an honorable peace -- but as the words in your little pamphlet will tell you in the document that you have -- there were others that were not so charitable. These men of the uniform -- they had fought each other for four years -- their profession was war -- and their goal was victory. But when they met here -- when they met here at Bennett Place -- they searched for peace with honor -- they searched for an understanding. They sought a goal that would make worthwhile the supreme sacrifices of more than 600,000 Confederate and Union soldiers. I hope that figure is literally seared into our memory. Their goal was unity -- and not a unity in which everyone conformed -- not a unity in which there were no differences. There's a great deal of difference between unity and unanimity. Unity is common purpose arrived at by common and mutual respect -- the promise of America -- a growing mighty America -- was then but a distant dream when these men met as spring came to a tortured nation. And my dear friends -- this beautiful place where we now sit and stand was not so beautiful in those days. It was bloodstained -- it was tortured -- but these men had the courage and vision to place their trust in the strength of an ideal -- and that ideal was unity.

The terms of the peace plan set forth by General Sherman were similar to the lines of conciliation agreed upon by Grant and Lee at Appomattox -- a policy that had been outlined by President Lincoln.

But unfortunately the efforts of Generals Johnston and Sherman were frustrated. Secretary of War Stanton repudiated the terms offered by his own general, General Sherman. Listen to his words -- the words of Stanton, "I am distressed beyond measure at the terms. They are inadmissible. There should now be literally no terms granted. We should not only brand the leading rebels with infamy, but the whole rebellion, the whole rebellion, should bear the badge of the penitentiary."

Not the words of conciliation -- not the words of let us bind up the wounds -- but the words of vengeance. What a shame it was that everyone in our country at that trying time could not have agreed with the words of Lincoln -- or of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox: Listen to Lee, to his soldiers, "We have fought this fight as long as, and as well as, we know how .. For us .. there is but one course to pursue. We must accept the situation .. and then these words of history .. and proceed to build .. to build up our country on a new basis."

He proceeded then to call for people to think of themselves not as Northerners and Southerners, but as Americans -- and that message of 100 years ago is the message that every person must have in his heart 100 years later.

Now all of this is history at this moment. It is behind us -- but I think we learn from it. From the vantage point of 100 years -- we now know that the Reconstruction period was a distressing a shameful chapter in the history of America. We have learned a bitter lesson -- that the spirit of regional vindictiveness and political opportunism can contribute nothing to the general welfare of our country. Indeed -- all this demented spirit can contribute -- all it can contribute -- is a heritage of rancor of bitterness and of hatred. We should always remember this lesson from our past. For the radicalism that dominated the Reconstruction era is a vivid example of the senselessness -- the vengeful kind of extremism that even today, if left unchecked, could bring our great democracy to its knees.

My fellow Americans, now as then, we must never permit vengeful radicals, haters, to dominate the American scene. There is no room in America for hate. We must never permit the spirit of radicalism -- of hate -- to poison the minds and the hearts of the American people of any generation. The real lesson of Bennett Place is the lesson of reconciliation and unity -- and the rejection of hate -- hate the poison and the toxin that destroys. Now I happen to believe that the American people have learned this lesson -- that is the vast majority. And now our great nation, under the leadership of President Johnson, is beginning a new era of unity, and of understanding. Oh, yes, I know there are still remnants of the haters -- still those who would try to arouse passions and emotions -- still those that profit upon prejudice and intolerance. Thank God they are the few and not the many.

And our task is to diminish their numbers by the example of understanding -- the example of brotherhood -- the example of neighborliness -- the example of justice -- and in so doing, my friends, hate will find no room in this house.

To be sure, men learn from history -- but more significantly, men also make history. And today we are making history. President Johnson, Congress, having learned their history -- are building a lasting, long-term base of national unity upon which we can create our own future.

I believe we are approaching the point in our history when struggle of class against class -- region against region -- race against race -- will be ended. This will be the beginning of the great society. I believe we are reaching the goal set forth by our President when he said: "Some say we will see an America that knows no North or South, no East or West -- an America undivided by creed or color, untorn by suspicion or strife."

These are worthy goals, my fellow Americans, to which we should dedicate every ounce of our energy and every minute of our respective lives.

I might add that only such an America, such an undivided America, will be able to carry the burden of freedom in the world -- a burden we must carry if we are to preserve democracy now and in the future. And lest anyone have any doubt as to what I have said, look ye upon the men of the Armed Services -- Americans of different walks of life, different races, creeds, and colors, from different regions of America -- but wearing the same uniform -- fighting for the same country. Now if you can do it in the name of defense, can we not do it in the name of peacetime living in our respective homes, cities and villages.

We are now, in our unity, fully developing our most precious and important resources: our human resources. And this state is rich in those resources. And through the leadership of your good governors -- and you have had almost two-thirds, better than two-thirds, of a century of good government -- as I said at Duke last night -- as a habit. This is a remarkable achievement. You are developing human resources.

President Johnson has proposed -- your Congress is passing, and it's your Congress -- legislation which will help create greater freedom, more security, and above all, wider opportunity.

Programs to provide adequate medical and hospital care for the elderly -- better education for our children -- programs designed to eradicate poverty -- and we can do it -- and to give each person truly equal opportunity. A great nation should be one that can care for those who are in the twilight of life and can offer unlimited opportunity to those who are in the dawn of life -- the young and the old -- one to be given opportunity for unlimited future -- the other to be given respectful care and attention for honored service better than three score and five. This I would say is the least that we can expect from one another.

Now these investments carry a price tag. Freedom is not free -- not does opportunity come at bargain counter rates. The cost of national problems like illiteracy, school dropouts, poverty, delinquency, and yes -- ugly discrimination -- The cost is far greater than the cost of

our efforts to overcome these things. Those costs can be listed in dollar signs, but they can also be listed in human signs -- The cost of broken hearts, homes, bodies, disillusionment, and frustration -- but we must make the investments necessary so that all in our society may be productive. Poor and uneducated people are generally poor consumers. They are a drain on the economy. They are wasted resources. This state knows that. Your governor knows this. This is why this state leads in this vast area of America in placing emphasis upon education -- because education is like nourishing the body and the soul -- it brings forth creative talent -- and enriches the body politic and the economy -- and North Carolina is not known as a progressive state by accident. It comes because for better than a century this state has placed a high priority upon human resources. I believe that a new day has dawned. I believe that the South will help lead the way during this new era of national unity and national progress. I believe the people of the South will help us lead the way as we bring an end to obstruction and paralysis and liberate the energies of a mighty people.

I believe the people of the South will help us lead the way as we fight to overcome the ancient enemies of man -- ignorance, disease, poverty, and injustice.

Already we have seen evidence that the New South is pointing the way as America's number one economic miracle. It is forging ahead with a pace of economic development that is the wonder and the envy of every other section of this great nation.

The South is no longer an economy of low incomes, cheap labor and a single crop. The South now produces 40 per cent of our nation's forest products, half of our nation's minerals, 53 per cent of its petroleum, 76 per cent of our natural gas, and 100 per cent of our sulphur and bauxite.

The New South is an economy of diversification, an economy of working people -- steel workers -- people in management and labor -- who are earning higher incomes, building fine homes, an economy of farmers who are improving their incomes, an economy of new industry such as has been mentioned here today that serves all of America.

I am confident that the South, that you are so justly proud of, will continue to move forward with a powerful thrust -- not only economically, but also socially and politically.

Our country draws strength from its present-day unity -- and let me repeat -- we have it despite the discordant voices of a few -- for it is a unity based not on force or compulsion, but a unity based on mutual respect and common belief in the dignity of man.

Wherever I go I repeat this simple lesson of what I believe is the conflict and the struggle of our time. The real struggle in the world today is over man's dignity. What is man? What is his purpose? What is his value? This is the heart -- this question of human dignity -- of the Civil Rights movement itself -- it's the real difference between the totalitarian and the free world -- that difference is the understanding of the worth of man -- all men.

Here in America, and in other parts of the free world, we really believe, as a matter of spiritual faith, that God created man in His own image -- You hear it in your church, in your temple, in your cathedral -- you hear it, and I trust we believe it, that there is a spark of the divine in every human being. If that is truth, and I so think it is, then we also believe that no other man has the right to govern or rule him without his consent. That's the heart of the Democratic faith.

Now, my fellow Americans, this is the basic commitment of our great country. This is what we stand for. Our children state it simply and beautifully every day in school when they recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and I wonder, as we recite that pledge, if we ponder each and every word, because its conciseness reveals its profundity. The history,

the story, and the promise of your America is defined in these words:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands -- One Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

My fellow Americans, we either believe it or we don't. If we do not believe it, we should not say it. If we say it, we should practice it. "One Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Now we preserved this one nation out of a terrible war. It ended here. Here on this land, in this place 100 years ago. Now our task is yet to bind up the wombs .. to work together, and to do it in unity -- to build the America begun but never completed. The words of your President in his Proclamation of March 1965 -- let me read them, "A true unity of our nation is more than a unity of states, it is a unity of spirit, of human hearts, and aspirations and hopes. It is not static but is ever-growing, for it's work is never done. The true spirit of American unity is one of challenge, of new goals to be sought and won. It is the spirit of ceaselessly striving by all of us, by Americans of every generation, to obtain those great common purposes that spring from our rich and marvelous diversity.

The above is a true copy of the tape recording made of the speech by Vice President Hubert Humphrey at Bennett Place in Durham, North Carolina, on April 25, 1965.

Carol C. Rich
Carol C. Rich

Sworn and subscribed before me this 4th day of May, 1965.

Jeanette F. Haswell Notary Public in and for the State
My commission expires February 14, 1967
of North Carolina.

INFORMATION

FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE
-ON-
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Washington 25, D. C.

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
BENNETT PLACE COMMEMORATION, DURHAM, NORTH
CAROLINA, APRIL 25, 1965

April is an historic month for our country.

It is the month when we commemorate the deaths of Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt.

It is also the month when we commemorate the end of the costliest war this nation has ever fought.

For the past several years the American people have been observing Civil War centennial events. But I must say I have often been disturbed by some of these observances. For too often the re-enactment of historic battles tends to make war seem romantic.

War is not romantic. War is ugly, cruel and senseless.

We are not gathered today to commemorate a war -- nor are we gathered to commemorate the end of a war.

We are here to pay tribute to the valiant men of the North and the South who met 100 years ago here at Bennett Place to seek peace.

The man in grey -- General Johnston -- and the man in blue -- General Sherman -- were two of the finest soldiers this nation ever produced. They had fought each other for more than four years. Their profession was war. Their goal was victory. But when they met here at Bennett Place they searched for peace with honor.

They sought a goal that would make worthwhile the supreme sacrifices of more than 600,000 Confederate and Union soldiers.

This goal was unity.

The promise of America -- a growing, mighty America -- was but a distant dream when these men met as spring came to a tortured nation. But these men had the courage and vision to place their trust in the strength of an ideal.

That ideal was unity.

The terms of the peace plan set forth by General Sherman was similar to the lines of conciliation agreed upon by Grant and Lee at Appomattox -- a policy that had been outlined by President Lincoln.

But unfortunately the efforts of Johnston and Sherman were frustrated. Secretary of War Stanton repudiated the terms offered by General Sherman.

"I am distressed beyond measure at the terms," Secretary Stanton said. "They are inadmissable. There should now be literally no terms granted. We should not only brand the leading rebels with infamy, but the whole rebellion should bear the badge of the penitentiary."

What a shame it was that all of our country at that trying time could not have agreed with the words of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox:

"We have fought this fight as long as and as well as we know how ... For us ... there is but one course to pursue. We must accept the situation ... and proceed to build up our country on a new basis."

All this is now history. It is behind us. But we can learn from it. From the vantage point of 100 years later, we know that the Reconstruction period was a distressing chapter in the history of America. We have learned the bitter lesson that the spirit of regional vindictiveness and political opportunism contribute nothing to the general welfare of our country.

Indeed, all this demented spirit can contribute is a heritage of rancor and bitterness and hatred.

We should always remember this lesson from the past. For the radicalism that dominated the Reconstruction era is a vivid example of the mindless, vengeful kind of extremism that even today, if left unchecked, could bring our great democracy to its knees.

I believe the American people have learned this lesson. And now our great nation -- under the leadership of President Johnson -- is beginning a new era of unity.

Men learn from history. But men also make history. And today President Johnson and the Congress, having learned their history, are building a lasting, long-term base of national unity upon which we can create our own future.

I believe that we are approaching that point in our history when the senseless struggle of class against class -- region against region -- and race against race will be ended.

I believe we are reaching the goal set forth by President Johnson when he said: "Some day we will see an America that knows no North or South, no East or West -- and America undivided by creed or color, untorn by suspicion or strife."

I might add that only such an undivided America will be able to carry the burden of freedom in the world -- a burden we must carry if we are to preserve democracy in the future.

We are now, in unity, fully developung our most important resources: our human resources.

President Johnson has proposed -- and your Congress is passing -- legislation which will help create the freedom and security we seek.

Programs to provide adequate medical care ... to better educate our children ... to eradicate poverty ... to give each man and woman in this country truly equal opportunity.

These investments carry a price tag.

But the cost of national problems like illiteracy, school dropouts, poverty, delinquency, and yes -- discrimination -- is far greater than the cost of our efforts to overcome these things.

We spend 450 dollars a year per child in our public schools. But we spend 1800 dollars a year to keep a delinquent in a detention home ... 2500 dollars a year for a family on relief ... and 3500 dollars a year for an inmate in state prison.

We must make the investments necessary so that all in our society may be productive. Poor and uneducated people are poor consumers. They are a drain on our economy. They are wasted resources.

I believe the South will help lead the way during this new era of national unity.

I believe the people of the South will help us lead the way as we bring an end to obstruction and paralysis and liberate the energies of a mighty people.

I believe the people of the South will help us lead the way as we fight to overcome the ancient enemies of men -- ignorance, disease, poverty and injustice.

Already we have seen evidence that the New South is pointing the way as America's number 1 economic miracle. It is forging ahead with a pace of economic development that is the wonder and the envy of every section of the country,

The South no longer is an economy of low incomes, cheap labor and a single crop. The South now produces 40 percent of our nation's forest products, half of our nation's minerals, 53 percent of our petroleum, 75 percent of our natural gas and 100 percent of our sulphur and bauxite.

The New South is an economy of diversification, an economy of working people who are building fine homes, an economy of farmers who are earning higher incomes, and economy of new industry that serves all America.

I am confident the South will continue to move forward with a powerful thrust -- not only economically, but also socially and politically.

Our country draws strength from its present-day unity. For it is a unity based not on force or compulsion, but on mutual respect and a common belief in the dignity of man.

The real struggle in the world today is over man's dignity. The real difference between

the totalitarian and the free world is in the understanding of the worth of man.

Here in America we really believe that God created man in His own image --- that there is a spark of the divine in every human being. And because we believe that man was created by a divine force, we also believe that no other man has the right to govern or rule him without his consent.

This is the basic commitment of our great country. Our children state it every day in school when they recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands -- One Nation, Under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We preserved this one nation out of a terrible war. Now our task is to work together, in unity, to build the America begun but never completed.



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