

Speech of Hubert H. Humphrey Jr.
Methodist Young Peoples Assembly
Wyzata Minn... Sunday, Aug 1, 1943

Salute
Any society that can produce two world wars in one generation is seriously sick and threatened with moral and physical breakdown. We of this generation can no longer afford the luxury of cynicism and sophistaction. If America is to have a noble and worthy future, it is up to the young men and women of today to recapture the greatness of christian idealism and put it into practise through political action and everyday living.

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Just remember that Jesus Christ is no sissy....He challenged the traditions and the values of his day and he charged each and every one of us to be as courageous in our day. He believed in the dignity of men and insisted that ~~***~~ and institutions be so arranged and established as to emancipate the energies and capacities of mankind. "Is man made for the sabbath or sabbath for the man?" Such were the words of the world's greatest social thinker and the truest believer in democracy.

There can be no democracy when human values are subservient to the rule and ~~power~~ of materialism. Political democracy without christian idealism is but an empty promise and ~~a sordid~~ self-doomed to failure.

Democracy is not a social system of the status quo. It is ever new and ever changing. ~~or it is the strength of democracy lies in it~~ Democracy is not property; it is an idea. Yes an idea about men and relations between men. Like christianity, it is conceived in the basic and fundamental belief that there is an inherent dignity and worth, an inherent goodness in every individual. Democracy is built on the belief that all men are created equal before God, no matter how unequal they may be in their mental and physical capacities.
Democracy can be meaningful only if government is responsive to the needs and desires of the great mass and majority of people. A democratic government cannot afford to sentence great sections of its population to poverty, to unemployment, to slums, to insecurity. It cannot afford the exploitation of man by man; it cannot tolerate the dog-eat-dog philosophy so characteristic of fascist nations. A world constructed around the democratic principle must be one that not only professes a humanitarian idealism but also practices it.

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We must recapture the audacious enthusiasm of democracy..it is young persons creed..it needs boldness and initiative to keep it alive. A respect for and belief in the common man, a faith in our God and ourselves, theses are the fundamentals of a free people. The power of an idea, the courage that comes through truth and understanding, these are the real secret weapons of the men of democratic faith.

We need not look to the past..our past is so near to us that in terms of civilization it is almost current news. The struggle for democracy has only begun. It may last for years,. It may last for decades. It may never be everlastingly won. Life is a continous struggle for higher ideals democracy is a challenge to the present and the future. OUR PRESENT TASK IS TO MAKE DEMOCRACY AGAIN A LIVING ADVENTURE



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