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SPEECH AT TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, FEBRUARY 27, 1947, BY
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ANNUAL FATHERS' AND SONS' BANQUET

A Father and Son's Banquet symbolizes our responsibilities to the present and our faith in the future. It is on an occasion such as this that fathers become ever more aware of their obligations to the community and to their families. We renew our dedication to the home and the fellowship of family life. It is at such a gathering as this that the importance of the father and son relationship is brought into clear view. Every boy needs the guidance and the friendship of a dad. It is not enough to be the provider and the master of the family. Respect by the son for the dad is gained through a combination of factors, one of which is the admiration and the affection that a son holds for his father, gained through companionship.

In the busy life of the City, the importance of home surroundings and a wholesome neighborhood environment becomes one of our main concerns. No matter how well we may provide for the home and our own back yard, the lives of our young men and women are being affected daily by the school, the parks, the streets, and the other environmental factors which surround home life. It is our task to provide for the best in education. It is our responsibility to plan and promote an extended program of wholesome leisure time activity. Every dad should encourage activities of the Boy Scouts and similar organizations. We should be active participants in community groups which dedicate their efforts to building citizenship in young Americans.

The sons gathered at this banquet will be the hope of America. Every generation lives for its sons and daughters. This is the impelling force which drives us on to greater accomplishments. A city is only as rich and as good as its young people. It is our privilege to provide opportunity for them, to provide a clean city, and to provide the opportunity of developing into manhood through the privileges of education, recreation and health.

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