

FOR RELEASE APRIL 2, P.M. papers
APRIL 3, A.M. papers

*Trouble - nothing new -
People always faced refiners fire of Trouble
War - ~~Disaster~~ - Poverty - fear -
Prophets cried out for Social Justice
5 ~~stages~~ - Christians - Philosophers of Renaissance
and Reformation*

BRIEF OF SPEECH OF HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY BEFORE THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEAGUE
Atlantic City
April 2, 1949

A troubled world is not an affliction suddenly visited upon the 20th century. Our troubled world began long long ago. Jewish history is replete with the distress and concurrent faith of a people who, more often than not, looked upon a troubled world. But let us start with a consideration, say, of the late 18th and 19th century. The festering sores of imperialistic feudalism and decaying aristocracy were lanced by revolts in Europe. The power of monarchs crumbled before the onslaught of the people's awakening. But the new democracy did not replace older systems entirely, nor did it establish itself without embroiling conflict. There was a drive toward nationalism, and it demonstrated its virility and power in sporadic wars, and ultimately in the two terrible holocausts which we called world wars.

Your fathers and their fathers lived in a troubled world, and they too participated in the succession of experiments which arose from conflict. They saw, many of them, the despotism of early kings replaced first by parliamentary governments, and then by another kind of despotism, even more terrible than the first. The rise of fascism, nazism, and communism was merely a variation on a theme. The new autocracies made use of modern methods, modern technical inventions, and modern ruthlessness. Their tyranny is the more inhuman because the facilities which afford them power give them leverage over human means to gain their ends.

The question we face is not altogether a new one. It is a question of whether or not a developing democracy will be able to meet the latest and most

modern autocratic power, the totalitarian threat.

How do we meet the totalitarian threat? Certainly not with the instruments dulled and bent by former use. We need a new, modern, streamlined instrument--an instrument that bludgeons brutality by the force of ideas. We need a streamlined version of the instrument that has comforted and aided the Jewish people through the centuries, and that has indeed spelled survival. It was the faith in themselves and in their fundamental democratic principles and the knowledge of the Talmudic truths that drove the Jewish people onward in their crises.

We here have the right ideas. There is no weakness in our creed, only in the faith we have in that creed. We have to know what we mean by democracy and then we have to sell it universally. There is no sense in meeting a cold war frigidly. The only way to get through the cold war is to throw the heat of our ideas into it, meet it squarely, and overpower it. The youth of our world are the most heavily affected. It is they who will have to bear the brunt of the burden. It is they who must learn the meaning and the techniques and the operation of modern democracy. And if there is one thing they must learn, it is the potency of the idea as a catalytic agent of world change.

The foremost weapon of modern democracy, the idea, cannot be handled lightly. Youth needs to investigate democracy, acquire skill in its methods, learn its manner of operation. Only with a tangible understanding of modern democracy can the modern brutality of totalitarianism be beaten.



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