

inv: Jan 29, 1959

New York City

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January 26, 1959

Thomas K. Finletter, Chairman  
New York Committee for Roosevelt Day  
23 East 16th Street  
New York 3, New York

Dear Tom:

As you know, a long-standing commitment prevents me from attending the Roosevelt Day Dinner. Please give the enclosed message to my friends at the dinner.

Best wishes and warm regards.

Sincerely yours,

Hubert H. Humphrey

MESSAGE OF GREETING TO THE  
NATIONAL ROOSEVELT DAY DINNER,  
JANUARY 29, 1959 FROM  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,  
CO-CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL  
ROOSEVELT DAY COMMITTEE

In honoring the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, we have an opportunity to dedicate ourselves again to the never ending quest for peace, security and advancement of human welfare.

Our quest for genuine peace demands intelligent, realistic examination of the image of America in the eyes of the world. Our leadership, our works of peace, our assistance to less privileged nations will determine the shape of the future. We must maintain a sound position of military strength, but we must continue to work for meaningful disarmament agreements so the nations of the world can devote their energies and their abilities to the welfare of their people.

In the service of human dignity and welfare, no one is playing a more important role than Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. An active and beloved First Lady, she has given selfless and devoted service not only to the United States but also to the peoples of the whole world. For ten years at the United Nations, Mrs. Roosevelt's work for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been a beacon and an inspiration for citizens of every nation. We of ADA are proud to work for the same liberal, humanitarian principles which Mrs. Roosevelt stands for.

At this 12th Roosevelt Day Dinner, let us dedicate ourselves to work with new vigor for these ideals of courage, confidence and humanity which Franklin D. Roosevelt brought to American life.

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"You ought to thank God tonight if, regardless of your years, you are young enough in spirit to dream dreams and see visions ... about a greater and finer America that is to be."

Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke these words in the grey and hopeless years of depression. He had given us the cold, hard facts of our current situation. He had outlined the necessary sacrifices. With faith in the American people and our ability to surmount present obstacles, he was turning our eyes to the greater goals of the future -- the New Frontiers. And one can almost hear the echo of that great voice ... "They will do it if they want to."

Today we find ourselves in another crisis - a global one. There has been little revelation of the cold, hard facts and little talk of national sacrifice. Many, who point with pride to our "Pioneer Blood" and "Guaranteed Freedoms" seem to be looking back at mountains that have been crossed, greeting each day with a "re-appraisal" and facing the future with a passive faith in the "eventual triumph of decency and freedom and right."

True, as former pioneers crossed the physical barriers of oceans and land masses, we are crossing the barriers of sound and gravity. But what of the other barriers no less mighty? Are we meeting the obstacles of prejudice, fear, disease, poverty and insufficient education with reiterations of what we can <sup>NOT</sup> AFFORD to do rather than what we CAN and MUST do?

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Instead of a ringing challenge to an ailing and developing Democracy, we hear fear-inspired warnings against creeping Socialism and the virtue of limiting Federal government participation in urgently needed public services.

I believe that the large majority of the American people are still people of action - pioneers willing to attack the New Frontiers. We want to find new solutions to our agricultural and industrial problems, and with increasing automation, we will have to find new solutions. We know we must continue to plan and act against slums, disease, discrimination, delinquency and all the other social problems, and with our growing population, we can no longer stand still. We want an expanded creative genius that gives us the medical discoveries to lengthen our lives, the tools to shorten our hours of toil, the vehicles that widen our horizons to outer space. We want some degree of security without the loss of opportunity and individual liberty.

This is not merely an investment in material things. More significantly, it is an investment in human beings. It means a vastly broadened educational system for all age levels. Unless our biggest Gross National Product is trained minds, we cannot continue to defend ourselves from an enemy, we cannot produce the fruits of life for ALL.

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our citizens, we cannot protect our bodies and minds from the increasing tensions of our environment. It means the removal of barriers between Nations so that we may once again have a free exchange of information on medicine, science, social welfare, education and culture.

We in America have every reason to encourage such a program. In the open and free exchange of ideas lies our great strength. Ignorance, fear and suspicion are anathema to a free society.

We talk so much and so emotionally of the heart or the pulse of mankind. Let us now respect and develop the mind and spirit of mankind.



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