

Statement for Norwegian Constitution Day

By SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
1313 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

I want to congratulate Norwegians, and all those of Norwegian descent, at the 150th anniversary of Norwegian Constitution Day.

The Norwegian Constitution, adopted May 17, 1814, is one of the world's great and enduring documents of human freedom and democracy. It draws from the same well of fundamental truth as our United States Constitution; both hold that just power derives from the consent of the governed.

Our two nations--the United States and Norway--have been linked continuously by the same democratic ideals and aspirations. The people of both have been adequate to the trust of self government.

Meeting in a country that had undergone great hardships in the aftermath of the Napoleonic wars and reactionary, the bold framers of the Norwegian Constitution held out for liberty and self government. They would be proud of the lasting quality of their work. It has been described by a Norwegian author as "a stable, solid, and true enough document to last for an infinite future, and also flexible enough to provide room for the political and spiritual struggles of a vigorous people."

In these days, when struggling nations are tempted by shortcuts to power that defer freedom and democracy for their people, Norwegian Constitution Day has a meaning far beyond Norway. It points up once again that no one can have liberty who does not trust it. The founding fathers of Norway have inspired the leaders of many nations in the past 150 years and their democratic nation is one of the greatest assets of a free and peaceful world.

Med de hjerteligste onsker for Norges Grundlovsdag, for frihet og Norges fremtid.

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*Somerset
also Lodge
mpls*

Mr Breckland

*mother Kristiansen S
not u H*

ADDRESS BY

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION DAY

*(Lef Erickson Day Oct 9)
con Carey*

MAY 17, 1964

Brooklyn, N.Y.

*Deputy Mayor
James Stuenkel
(~~Mayor~~)*

*State Sen Conklin
con Carey*

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE FOR NORWEGIAN-

AMERICAN DAY IN BROOKLYN AND JOIN YOU IN CELEBRATING NORWEGIAN

CONSTITUTION DAY. ANY ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERTY IS AN INSPIRATION

.....TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF IT IS AN OCCASION OF GREAT JOY.

THE NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION, ADOPTED MAY 17TH, 1814, IS

ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT AND ENDURING DOCUMENTS OF HUMAN

FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. THE DATE OF ITS ADOPTION IS A DATE

THAT NO LONGER BELONGS TO NORWEGIANS ALONEIT IS AN

HISTORIC DATE IN THE CALENDAR OF LIBERTY FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO

ARE FREE OR WHO ASPIRE TO FREEDOM.

*con Res
Resolution
Edna Kelly*

*norw - Irish, Scots,
Ireland,
Greenland
to North America*

THE INFLUENCE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE NORWEGIAN
CONSTITUTION--LIKE THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITED STATES - EXTENDED FAR BEYOND THEIR OWN TIME,
THEIR OWN PLACE, OR THEIR OWN PEOPLE. BOTH HAD ALL MEN
EVERYWHERE IN MIND AND BOTH SPOKE FOR THE NATURAL AND
ENDURING RIGHTS OF ALL MEN.

I AM IMPRESSED WITH PARALLELS THAT APPEAR IN THE HISTORY
OF NORWEGIAN AND AMERICAN EFFORTS TO FRAME CONSTITUTIONS.

THE DELEGATES TO BOTH BODIES - THE NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTIONAL
ASSEMBLY AND THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION -

WERE YOUNG MEN. BUT IN BOTH COUNTRIES THEY WERE MATURE IN
MIND, STRONG IN CHARACTER, AND EQUIPPED TO SHAPE THE DESTINIES
OF THEIR COUNTRIES.

*young
men*

CHRISTIAN MAGNUS FALSEN, THE FATHER OF THE NORWEGIAN
CONSTITUTION AND THE JEFFERSON OF NORWAY, WAS ONLY 31. BUT
HE HAD ALREADY WRITTEN A BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON
AND HE WAS DEEPLY IMBUED WITH A KNOWLEDGE OF THE STILL VERY
YOUNG AMERICAN CONSTITUTION AND INFLUENCED BY THE MEN WHO
FRAMED IT. *as your program states,* HE FELT SO STRONGLY ABOUT TWO OF THESE MEN THAT
HE NAMED HIS FIRST CHILD GEORGE BENJAMIN - "GEORGE" FOR
GEORGE WASHINGTON AND "BENJAMIN" FOR BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION WASN'T LIMITED
TO THE FRAMERS OF THE NORWEGIAN DOCUMENT. PRINTED FIRST AMONG
ALL THE DOCUMENTS IN THE APPENDIX TO THE ASSEMBLY PROTOCOL IN
1814 IS A LETTER SENT TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY BY A
CITIZEN OF BERGEN.

"INSPIRED BY THE MOST SINCERE DESIRE TO BE OF USE TO
MY NATIVE LAND," THE LETTER READ, "I HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS
WILL NOT TAKE IT AMISS WHEN I TAKE IT UPON MYSELF WITH ALL
DUE HONOR AND RESPECT TO TRANSMIT TO YOU HERewith THE LAWS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA WHICH I ACQUIRED
DURING MY VISIT TO THE SAID COUNTRY AND FROM WHICH IT WOULD
PLEASE ME GREATLY TO THINK THAT YOU MIGHT EXTRACT SOMETHING
WHICH WOULD SERVE TO THE FUTURE GOOD OF OUR DEAR NORWAY."

Eidsvoll

THE CONSTITUTION PUT TOGETHER BY THE ASSEMBLY AT EIDSVOLL

IN 1814 WAS NO DIRECT COPY OF THE ONE FORMED AT PHILADELPHIA.

L NORWEGIANS OF FREE AND INDEPENDENT MIND AND SPIRIT FRAMED

A CONSTITUTION FOR THEIR OWN PEOPLE AND THEIR OWN CONDITIONS.

L BUT THEIR CONSTITUTION DREW FROM THE SAME WELL OF FUNDAMENTAL

TRUTH AS OUR UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONBOTH HOLD

THAT JUST POWER DERIVES FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED.

L BOTH DECLARE THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL AND THAT ALL HAVE

NATURAL RIGHTS. THESE NATURAL RIGHTS AND GENUINE TRUTHS ARE

DISTILLED FROM THE EVOLUTION OF ALL WESTERN HISTORY - NO NATION

HAS INVENTED THEM OR HAS A MONOPOLY ON THEM.

OTHER NATIONS CAN SHARE THE SAME INSPIRATION AND DRAW ON

THE SAME TRUTHSTHEY CAN MAKE FREEDOM THEIR OWN

WITHOUT IMITATING EITHER OF THESE GREAT DOCUMENTS *L* INDEED,

UNLESS A NATION WINS ITS OWN FREEDOM IT WILL NEVER HAVE IT.

norwegians understand this!

LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY HAVE BEEN UNDER THE MOST SEVERE
ATTACK IN OUR TIME, THREATENED BY THE AGGRESSIVE ASSAULT OF
THE NAZIS IN WORLD WAR II AND BY TOTALITARIAN COMMUNISM
SINCE THAT TIME. I BELIEVE WE HAVE CONTAINED THE THREAT OF
EXTERNAL AGGRESSION. WHAT WE FACE NOW IS AN EQUALLY SERIOUS
BUT MORE SUBTLE CHALLENGE - INTERNAL SUBVERSION IN MANY
PARTS OF THE WORLD INSPIRED BY THOSE WHO TEMPT THE POOR AND
UNDERPRIVILEGED WITH SHORTCUTS TO POWER AND PROSPERITY.
THE CLAIM OF SOME TYRANT OF THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT
THAT HE CAN DELIVER THE GOODS FASTER OR MORE EFFICIENTLY IS
BEGUILING TO THOSE WHO WANT AND NEED SO MUCH. WE KNOW THAT
IT'S A SIREN'S CALL. BUT WE MUST BE PATIENT WITH OTHERS UNTIL
THEY DISCOVER THAT IT IS. AND WE HAVE TO DO OUR BEST TO
LEAD THESE NEW AND UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS NOT SO

MUCH BY WORDS AS BY ^{our} DEEDS.

4 Freedoms - Dignity / Revolution of Freedom
not of Communism

THE HISTORY OF NORWAY AND ITS PRESENT POSITION IN WORLD

AFFAIRS GIVES IT A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ILLUSTRATE THE

TRUTH THAT LIBERTY IS THE GREATEST TREASURE. WHILE THE UNITED

STATES HAS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF IN EITHER ITS PAST OR ~~IT~~

^{present} ITS MOTIVATIONS, ITS SHEER POWER ^{and wealth} SOMETIMES OBSCURES THE ISSUES.

NORWAY, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS NEITHER BIG ENOUGH TO BE

FEARED NOR RICH ENOUGH TO BE ENVIED.

*She is Just and
and honorable enough to be respected!*

Norway proves that Democracy

Social Welfare

Justice under

law

& freedoms

U.S.
Big

~~I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT NORWAY HAS FAILED TO PLAY A~~ *played*

VITAL ROLE IN THE CONTAINMENT OF COMMUNISM ~~OR SHRUNK FROM~~ *Norway courageously*

and steadfastly stands with ~~STANDING FRIM WITH~~ THE FREE WORLD. SINCE THE FOUNDING OF *Nato*

NATO, NORWAY NOT ONLY HAS HELD MEMBERSHIP BUT HAS SHOULDERED

THE MOST RESPONSIBLE DUTIES IN THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE ATLANTIC

she is the northern anchor of the grand alliance.
NATIONS. *THIS* HAS INVOLVED AN ASSUMPTION OF RISK FOR A

SMALL NATION THAT COULD JUST AS EASILY HAVE ACCEPTED THE

TEMPTING STANCE OF NON-ALIGNMENT. *But Norway can never*

h NORWAY ALSO HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING LEADER IN THE UNITED *U.N.*

NATIONS. THE ACTION OF NORWAY - ALONG WITH THE OTHER

Sweden, Denmark Finland and
SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, IRELAND AND CANADA - IN PLEDGING

UNITS OF THEIR NATIONAL ARMED FORCES TO THIS PEACE-KEEPING

FORCE IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

No amount of money in special assessments to the U.N. can equal the contribution of military manpower for the Peace Keeping force.!

*PEACE
Keeping*

WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS WAS CREATED IN 1945 IT WAS HOPED
THAT THE FIVE GREAT POWERS WOULD COOPERATE IN KEEPING THE
PEACE. BUT THIS HOPE WAS SOON DASHED WHEN THE WORLD SPLIT
INTO ARMED CAMPS REPRESENTING EAST AND WEST AND THE ROLE OF
THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF WAS THREATENED. EVENTUALLY,
HOWEVER, A SHAKY PEACE WAS BROUGHT ON BY A SOBERING STALEMATE
OF THERMONUCLEAR DETERRENCE. PRECARIOUS THOUGH THIS IS, IT
HAS ENABLED US TO BEGIN THE FIRST TENTATIVE STEPS TOWARD
DISARMAMENT.

*Trigian
He*

peace and

from to P 12

MEANWHILE THE TROUBLES IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD -
THE NATURAL REVOLUTIONS AND THE UNNATURALLY INSPIRED ONES - C
THREATEN SMALL WARS ~~CONSTANTLY~~. IF THEY ARE NOT SETTLED
QUICKLY, THE GREAT POWERS ARE DRAWN SLOWLY BUT INEVITABLY INTO
CONFRONTATIONS OF INCREASING DANGER. ONLY THE UNITED NATIONS
CAN INTERVENE PRACTICALLY IN THESE SITUATIONS. AND THE ONLY
POWER THE UNITED NATIONS CAN USE EFFECTIVELY IS THAT
PROVIDED BY FORCES FROM OTHER NATIONS, SUCH AS NORWAY.

WHAT THE UNITED NATIONS NEEDS IS A SOLID GROUP IT CAN
COUNT ON AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE. THIS FORCE MUST REPRESENT
NATIONS WITH THE RESPECT OF THE WORLD AND THE CAPABILITY TO
MEDIATE. IF SUCH A FORCE CAN MATURE AND DEVELOP IT WOULD
MAKE POSSIBLE LARGER DISARMAMENT STEPS THAN NOW SEEM FEASIBLE
TO FEARFUL NATIONS. I KNOW THE UNITED STATES IS IMMENSELY
GRATEFUL FOR WHAT NATIONS LIKE NORWAY ARE WILLING TO DO.
THE COMMUNIST WORLD SHOULD BE GRATEFUL, TOO, FOR NATIONS
WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE PEACE-KEEPING ROLES.

WHEN THESE NEW AND STRUGGLING NATIONS, WHERE SUBVERSION
IS A CONSTANT THREAT, LOOK ABOUT FOR GUIDANCE THE
HISTORY OF NORWAY MUST COME TO BE MORE AND MORE MEANINGFUL
TO THEM. MOST OF THE 62 NEW COUNTRIES ARE YOUNGER THAN THE
UNITED NATIONS MOST FACE DESPERATE PROBLEMS OF DISEASE,
POVERTY, ILLITERACY AND LACK OF DEVELOPMENT..... AND MOST
ARE WRESTLING WITH PROBLEMS OF POLITICAL INFANCY. ^{instability} IT IS SMALL
WONDER THEY CAST ABOUT FOR STRONG SOLUTIONS TO STERN PROBLEMS.
IT IS SMALL WONDER THEY ARE TEMPTED BY STRONG MEN, AND BY
DICTATORIAL IDEAS, TO HELP FORCE PROGRESS.

THE GREAT HOPE FOR THEM - AND FOR THE PEACE OF THE
WORLD - IS THAT THEY WANT TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT.

THEY DON'T WANT TO BE PAWNS OF ANY OTHER NATION OR POWER
BLOC. IF THEY CAN ONLY GAIN SUFFICIENT INSIGHT INTO THEIR
OWN AFFAIRS TO REALIZE THAT FREEDOM DEFERRED IS FREEDOM
DENIED WE ALL WILL BE IN A POSITION TO HELP THEM HELP
THEMSELVES.

These

~~THOSE~~ NEW NATIONS NEED ~~ING~~ AN EXAMPLE THEY CAN UNDERSTAND.

They need

AND ONE THAT ~~COULD~~ *can* PROVIDE HOPE FOR THEIR FUTURE. ~~SHOULD~~

They should

CONSIDER WHAT NORWAY WAS LIKE 150 YEARS AGO. THERE WERE

IMPOVERISHED PEASANTS DENIED A RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SOCIETY ..

THERE WERE LABORING CLASSES THAT ~~HAD NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY~~

denied equal rights

TO ~~FIGHT THEIR WAY FOR EQUAL RIGHTS~~ WOMEN DID NOT HAVE *the*

right to vote.

~~SUFFRAGE~~ NORWAY HAD BEEN TIED TO DENMARK IN THE

NAPOLEONIC WARS AND IN THE PEACE TREATY WAS BARTERED AGAINST

HER WILL TO SWEDEN AND A MILITANT, REACTIONARY SPIRIT

INFLUENCED EUROPEAN THOUGHT. *and* NOT ALL NORSE WERE READY

FOR A FAR-REACHING DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT OR FOR "THE

Radical

~~RADICAL~~ CONSTITUTION APPROVED IN 1814.

BUT SUBSEQUENT EVENTS SHOWED THAT THE CONSTITUTION OF
1814 WAS RADICAL ONLY IN THAT IT PROVED FOR THE FULL
DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM. THE PEASANTS FOUND A RIGHTFUL
PLACE IN SOCIETY LABOR FOUND ITS RIGHTS EQUAL
AND UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE CAME EARLY NORWEGIAN ART REACHED
THE HEIGHTS OF GENIUS SCIENCE AND CULTURE BECAME A
NATIONAL PRIDE, ... AND FREEDOM GREW WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF
THE CONSTITUTION.

Norway Social Democracy
Lead the way!

WHEN THE ASSEMBLYMEN AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
AT EIDSVOLL PARTED, THEY SHOWED BOTH A SENSE OF DESTINY AND
A REALIZATION THAT THEY HAD STAKED THEIR HOPE IN FREEDOM
ON FAITH ALONE. THEY STOOD HAND IN HAND, SWEARING TO
REMAIN FAITHFUL AND UNITED "UNTIL THE DOVRE MOUNTAINS FALL."

FREEDOM AND LIBERTY TO THEM - LIKE THE DOVRE MOUNTAINS -
WERE ABIDING AND UNCHANGEABLE. BUT EVEN TODAY, 150 YEARS
LATER, THIS ACT OF FAITH MUST BE CONSTANTLY MADE AND
ETERNAL VIGILANCE CONSTANTLY MAINTAINED. BUT IT WILL BE
EASIER FOR ALL OF US TO DO THIS, AND WILL BECOME EASIER
FOR OTHERS, IF WE LOOK BACK FROM TIME TO TIME AT THE
RESOLUTE AND FREE MEN WHO WERE THE FATHERS OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF NORWAY.

may I say like all Norwegians

###

*Gnåt - til - en - Må - Dager
manga - tusen - TAKK*



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