

Rev. Kenneth Forbes
of Irving Methodist
church

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

BISHOP RICHARD C. RAINES TESTIMONIAL RECEPTION

DePAUW UNIVERSITY
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

"School of Prophets"

September 1, 1967

Dr Kersteller

✓ Sen Hartke
✓ Sen Bayh

We meet today to honor ^{devoted} a servant of God ^{a great citizen} ~~and man~~

for a life well spent in the service of his church
and of his fellow men.

∠ Indeed, if his prayer is that of John
Wesley: "O Lord, let us not live to be useless" -
and I suspect it is - it has been abundantly
answered.

∠ Inspired pastor, great hearted shepherd of
souls, gifted administrator, a recognized leader of
his church at home and abroad - Bishop Raines
is ~~has been~~ all of these.

Henn Ave
Methodist
church Unit of life

As a persistent practitioner of the art of speaking, I want to pay a particular and personal tribute to his gifts as a preacher.

He preaches with eloquence and passion! What he says goes straight to the heart of the matter - and to the hearts of the men and women privileged to hear him.

Moreover, he always has something to say - and the best sermon is always preached by the minister who has a sermon to preach, not by the one who has to preach a sermon.

What he preaches, he is! He is a splendid example of the truth of the old saying:

"He preaches well who lives well."

↳ In the service of the Lord, Bishop Raines has travelled widely throughout the world - seven times to Asia alone.

↳ As a delegate to the World Council of Churches, he has played an active part in that great and promising effort to bring the religious forces of the world together.

↳ As Vice Chairman of the Commission on Religion and Race of the National Council of Churches, he has been in the forefront of the churches' confrontation with our gravest and most urgent challenge as a nation - the assurance of equal rights and opportunities to all Americans.

*Bishop Raines lives Brotherhood
and then Preaches it*

And what a mighty difference the churches' participation in this struggle has made! When its history is written, I believe their role will be put down as crucial and decisive.

In paying tribute to Bishop Raines, I should like also to pay tribute to the Church he has served all his life.

Founded in 18th Century England, it took firm root almost immediately in our new world.

Its doctrines of free grace and individual responsibility commended it to our pioneer and democratic society. Its circuit riders kept pace with the movement of our people westward into the wilderness, preaching the gospel as they went.

Moreover, they preached to everyone who would hear the message - whatever their social or economic status or their race.

Methodism
has always been a faith to be practiced in everyday life as well as professed in church on Sunday - as set forth in John Wesley's well known words:

"Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can."

Faith and Works.

↳ We rightly judge religious movements by the men they make as well as the men who make them.

By these standards, Methodism stands tall. From our first beginnings as a nation, men and women of the Methodist faith have had a great part in building this country and making it what it is. —

↳ How many men and women have found, in the Sunday school and the Epworth League, the solid foundation on which to build lives of service to their country and their fellow men!

↳ I know there are some self-styled sophisticates nowadays who say that the pieties of our pioneer past are no longer relevant to the vastly changed circumstances of today's America.

"The firm base of government is Justice,
not Piety" (Woodrow Wilson)

They say that these pieties belong to
a vanished past - like the horse and buggy,
the crinoline, and the cigar store Indian.

↳ I most emphatically disagree. The
problems may have changed, but the principles
we must apply in solving them have not.

↳ Science has devised all kinds of
synthetics - but it has developed no substitute
for integrity, for conscience, for love of one's
fellow men and dedication to their service.

↳ Time was when a Daniel Boone (feeling
crowded because he could see the smoke from
another cabin) could pull up stakes and move
further out into the virgin wilderness.

↳ But the fact that most of us live willy nilly as close neighbors in crowded metropolitan areas makes it all the more important that we live together as good neighbors.

↳ Neighborliness - that good old Methodist virtue - is more necessary than ever today.

↳ To the Biblical challenge: "Am I my brother's keeper?", we must answer with a resounding: "Yea!"

↳ And we must act on the principle that the ties and obligations of brotherhood transcend all bounds of race, color, ethnic origin, or creed. Indeed, they embrace the whole family of man.

In this day and age, we are more than ever - as St. Paul told the Ephesians at the dawn of the Christian era - "members one of another."

↳ There is a story that, when Adam and Eve were expelled from Eden, he turned to her apologetically and said: "Well, my dear, we are living in an age of transition."

↳ So have all their descendants. John and Charles Wesley lived in an age of transition in England. ↳ All of American history is, in a very real sense, an age of transition.

↳ What counts is not whether we are on the move, but where we are going. And, in these troubled times, it is all the more vital that we steer our course by the fixed stars of faith.

↳ Bishop Raines has been one of those who throughout his life has ever pointed the way to a brighter and better tomorrow for America and for the world.

I know that he will never slacken in the effort - that he will never really retire (indeed, I understand that he has taken up water skiing.)

So, it is not so much the closing of one chapter in Bishop Raines' career that we commemorate today, but the opening of a new one.

Being here at this school of prophets inspires me to prophesy myself. And I predict that Bishop Raines will continue to give great service to his church and his country for all his remaining years on this earth - and may they be many and full!

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