

Betty

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ANNUAL JOHN HANSON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

APRIL 13, 1973

IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE TONIGHT  
WITH ALL MY SWEDISH FRIENDS. THIS PLEASURE IS MADE EVEN  
GREATER BY BEING SELECTED AS ONE OF THE RECIPIENTS OF  
THE JOHN HANSON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

MOST OF US IN THE WASHINGTON AREA ASSOCIATE JOHN  
HANSON WITH THE HIGHWAY NAMED AFTER HIM BETWEEN BALTIMORE  
AND WASHINGTON (U.S.50). DURING RUSH HOURS OUR THOUGHTS  
OF JOHN HANSON ARE MOST LIKELY UNPLEASANT ONES.

UNLIKE MOST OF MY COLLEAGUES IN PUBLIC LIFE, I KNOW  
OF JOHN HANSON'S GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BEGINNINGS  
OF OUR GREAT NATION. AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE MADE SOMETHING  
OF A STUDY OF THE PRESIDENCY. AND WITH A LITTLE  
IMAGINATION ONE CAN SAY THAT JOHN HANSON WAS THE FIRST  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

LET ME BACK TRACK A LITTLE TO PICK UP SOME OF THE HISTORY OF THIS GREAT SWEDISH AMERICAN FOR MY FRIENDS WHO ARE NOT AS FAMILIAR WITH OUR PRESIDENTS AS I AM.

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY IS FILLED WITH STORIES OF THE FOUNDING OF VIRGINIA BY THE CAVALIERS, THE SETTLEMENT OF NEW ENGLAND BY THE PURITANS, OF MARYLAND BY THE CATHOLICS UNDER LORD BALTIMORE, OF THE CAROLINAS BY THE HUGUENOTS, OF NEW YORK BY THE DUTCH, AND OF PENNSYLVANIA BY THE QUAKERS.

THE ROMANTIC STORIES AND SCHOLARLY TREATISES OF THE NATION'S FOUNDING ALMOST OBSCURE THE EQUALLY ROMANTIC AND IMPORTANT STORY OF THAT BAND OF HARDY SOULS WHO SET OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PLAN PROPOSED BY THEIR LAKE KING,

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS, TO FOUND A NEW COLONY ON THE AMERICAN SEACOAST TO BE KNOWN AS NEW SWEDEN.

THE PROPOSED COLONY WAS ESTABLISHED ON THE DELAWARE RIVER IN 1638 AND AUGMENTED IN 1642 BY A GROUP LED BY JOHAN PRINTZ. SEVERAL YEARS LATER THE COLONY PUSHED INTO MARYLAND AND TWO GENERATIONS LATER THE MARYLAND COLONY PRODUCED THE FIRST "PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED."

JOHN HANSON WAS BORN AT MULBERRY GROVE, CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, ON APRIL 3, 1715. HE IS REPUTED TO HAVE BEEN A DESCENDANT OF AN ENGLISH MERCHANT WHO MARRIED A GRANDDAUGHTER OF GUSTAVUS VASA, KING OF SWEDEN.



HANSON'S FAMILY WAS A LARGE ONE AND MANY OF THEM RENDERED  
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE IN THE CAUSE OF THE COUNTRY OF THEIR  
BIRTH.

YOUNG JOHN HIMSELF FIRST CAME TO NOTICE IN PUBLIC  
LIFE AS A DELEGATE FROM CHARLES COUNTY TO THE LOWER HOUSE  
OF ASSEMBLY, IN WHICH HE SERVED NINE TERMS. HIS  
INFLUENCE GREW WITH HIS AGE AND HE WAS THE DOMINATING  
SPIRIT WHICH DROVE A SMALL BAND OF PATRIOTS IN MARYLAND  
TO ESPOUSE OPENLY THE CAUSE OF REBELLION AGAINST "THE  
CROWN." THE MOVEMENT, GIVEN IMPETUS BY HIM, GREW UNTIL  
MARYLAND HAD DEFINITELY SEVERED ALL ALLEGIANCE TO THE  
MOTHER COUNTRY AND WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED ON THE SIDE OF THE  
REVOLUTIONISTS.

ALLIED WITH HANSON WAS THAT ILLUSTRIOUS PATRIOT AND CATHOLIC, CHARLES CARROLL, SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S RICHEST MEN, WHO UNSTINTINGLY GAVE OF HIS GREAT FORTUNE TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT WHEN THE STATE OF MARYLAND WAS DELEGATED TO CHOOSE ITS TWO MOST DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS FOR HONOR IN STATUARY HALL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITOL THE STATE SELECTED JOHN HANSON AND CHARLES CARROLL.

IT WAS UNDER JOHN HANSON'S INSISTENCE THAT MARYLAND GAVE THE NEW ENGLAND STATES ASSURANCE THAT ITS CITIZENS WOULD BACK THEM TO THE LIMIT IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST BRITISH TYRANNY. HE ORGANIZED TWO COMPANIES OF INFANTRY AND SENT THEM TO CAMBRIDGE FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES AT BUNKER HILL.

IN 1769, HANSON ORGANIZED THE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND FREEMEN WHICH DEDICATED ITSELF TO THE CAUSE OF FREE SPEECH AND COLONIAL RESISTANCE TO THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.

MY FRIENDS, IT WAS THIS GREAT SWEDISH AMERICAN WHO LED THE MARYLAND PROVINCIAL CONVENTION TO TAKE A UNITED STAND WITH OTHER COLONIES IN THEIR GRIEVANCES AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN. AND IT WAS MARYLAND'S ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE NEW ENGLAND GROUP THAT ENCOURAGED OTHER SOUTHERN COLONIES TO JOIN IN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM. IT WAS IN THIS ROLE OF UNITING THE COLONIES THAT JOHN HANSON MADE HIS GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATION'S FOUNDING.

THE MARYLAND ASSEMBLY ELECTED HIM A DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ON DECEMBER 22, 1779. WHEN HANSON TOOK HIS SEAT IN THAT BODY SIX MONTHS LATER, HE FOUND HIS FELLOW MARYLAND DELEGATES REFUSING TO RATIFY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION.

MARYLAND WAS THE ONLY ONE OF THE THIRTEEN STATES OPPOSED TO THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION AS FIRST PROPOSED. UNDER THIS ORIGINAL PROPOSAL EACH OF THE STATES MADE CLAIMS TO EXTENSIVE WESTERN LANDS. NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS, AND VIRGINIA, FOR INSTANCE, CLAIMED OWNERSHIP OF WHAT IS TODAY THE STATES OF MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, AND OHIO.



JOHN HANSON AND DANIEL CARROLL, HIS ASSOCIATE ON THE MARYLAND DELEGATION IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, ABSOLUTELY REFUSED TO ENTER THE NEW COUNTRY UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE SOON LED TO BITTER CONFLICT IF NOT CIVIL WAR.

IT WAS OUR SWEDISH FRIEND WHO SUGGESTED AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN UNDER WHICH MARYLAND OFFERED TO GIVE UP FOREVER ITS CLAIM TO WESTERN LANDS AND SIGN OVER ITS TERRITORIES TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IF THE OTHER STATES WOULD FOLLOW SUIT.

GRADUALLY, THE OTHER STATES FELL IN LINE, AND IN MARCH, 1781, HANSON ATTACHED HIS SIGNATURE AS DELEGATE FROM MARYLAND, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE NEW LANDS CEDED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE USED TO CREATE NEW STATES AS THE EXPANSION WESTWARD WARRANTED.

NOW LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT PRESIDENT HANSON, ALTHOUGH SEVEN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY FROM SEPTEMBER 5, 1774, ON UNTIL JOHN HANSON OF MARYLAND TOOK OFFICE, THE FIRST FIVE SERVED BEFORE THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION WERE FINALLY RATIFIED. THE SIXTH, THOMAS MCKEAN OF DELAWARE, THOUGH THE FIRST TO SERVE AFTER RATIFICATION, HELD THAT POST BEFORE YORKTOWN AND CORNWALLIS'S SURRENDER. THUS WHEN HANSON ASSUMED OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 5, 1781, HE NOT ONLY PRESIDED OVER CONGRESS BUT WAS IN FACT, AS WELL AS IN NAME, THE COUNTRY'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

DURING HIS YEAR'S PRESIDENCY THE NEW NATION TOOK MANY NOTABLE STEPS: IT SET UP A DEPARTMENT OF MARINE, OF WAR, AND A SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE. A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF TAXATION WAS PROPOSED. A CONSULAR SERVICE WAS ORIGINATED; THE BANK OF NORTH AMERICA WAS FOUNDED; THE NATIONAL POST OFFICE DEFINITELY ORGANIZED; AND A SPECIAL SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES ADOPTED. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE SEAL WAS FIRST USED BY JOHN HANSON ON AN OFFICIAL COMMISSION TO GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ARRANGE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS OF WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

IN FACT, IN LOOKING AT HANSON'S YEAR AS PRESIDENT, I  
SEE SEVERAL PARALLELS WITH THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS IN  
WASHINGTON. WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED A PRISONER EXCHANGE IN  
VIETNAM.

THE SENATE IS INVESTIGATING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE  
POSTAL SERVICE. I BELIEVE THE MAIL MOVED FASTER IN 1781.

I AM PROPOSING TAX REFORM AND THE PRESIDENT IS  
THREATENING HIGHER TAXES.

OUR MONETARY SYSTEM HAS BEEN JARRED BY TWO DEVALUATIONS.

AND OUR CURRENT PRESIDENT HAS SEEN FIT TO REORGANIZE  
THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WITHOUT  
CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.

~~WHAT WE NEED ARE MORE SWEDS IN THE WHITE HOUSE.~~



WHAT WE NEED ARE MORE SWEDES IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

YOU MIGHT EXPECT THAT IT WOULD BE SWEDEN WHICH, AS A  
NEUTRAL NATION, FIRST RECOGNIZED THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE  
UNITED STATES.

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