



WENDELL K. WALKER
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RESPONSE OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY on receiving the Grand Lodge Medal for Distinguished Achievement, at the Grand Master's Dinner, May 1, 1973.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, my very sincere thanks for the presentation that you have given me tonight for this award. I would be less than honest if I didn't tell you I thoroughly enjoyed it. I know I am supposed to say I don't deserve it, but I enjoyed receiving it and I want to thank you very much. (Applause) A medal for distinguished achievement from my brothers in Masonry is, to me, a very special privilege.

I also want to pay my respects tonight to the Deputy Grand Master and to all the visiting Grand Masters who are ~~here~~ with us tonight, to all the District Deputy Grand Masters and Masters that we have here this evening, and to the ladies who have graced our gathering ~~here~~ by their presence. As I look around here, I am reminded of the times that my mother used to take off in the evening for Eastern Star meetings. My father was a good Mason. As I told Judge Froessel tonight, Dad said to me, "Well, son, if you are going to join, I want you to join the best." He said, "I want you to think about becoming worthy of being a Mason." Father was a good member of our Fraternity, and I will always remember his advice and his counsel to me.

Tonight we had a wonderful presentation, ~~as far as I am concerned~~, by Judge Froessel. I noted he was very truthful:

he confessed his politics. (Laughter) I thought for a man who had written to me in the letter of invitation that I should stay to non-political subjects, that that was a rather good sign for the evening. (Laughter) But apparently our Most Worshipful Grand Master wanted someone to present me that had a bias, and would not let truth stand in the way of a ^{very} ~~real~~ ^{fine} good presentation. (Laughter and applause)

~~I tell you,~~ you did a marvelous job, your Honor. I want to thank you very, very much. You know, as President Johnson used to say about his family when he received a wonderful introduction like that, he said, "You know my father would have liked it, and my mother would have believed it." (Laughter) That is the way I feel tonight.

I was asked earlier this evening ^{as} ~~to~~ how I should be addressed. Some one said to me, "Should you be addressed as 'Vice President' or 'Senator'?" And I said, "Well, I guess maybe it's better that you refer to me as 'Senator' because that's the way I get paid." ^(laughter) ~~^~~ Right now, that seems to be a reassuring observation, but I am deeply appreciative to have had the rare honor of being one of the Vice Presidents of this great nation. I know the office is often looked upon with a certain degree of humor and ridicule but, might I say, to me it was a rare privilege and a high honor. I will always be grateful for the privilege that has been mine.

Now, ^{on} ~~a~~ matter of some significance for all of you, I have demonstrated that we are living in the age of ecology, of concern for the environment. You have heard a great deal about recycling.

Well, here I am, I'm recycled. (Laughter and applause) Now I don't want anyone to think that I am going any further ⁱⁿ ~~on~~ the cycle. In other words, I am not in line ~~you know~~, I am just trying to do my job.

This banquet tonight is a very special occasion, not only because of the tremendous audience we have here, but because of its significance, ~~that~~ ^{it} represents the best in Masonry, as you here represent the best that is in this great Fraternity of ours. I mentioned my father, who was my beloved friend and teacher as well as my father. He lived the principles of Masonry. He understood it. Harry Truman was my favorite President. I tell you, he was something. (Applause) I liked him, not only because of his partisanship, which he had a big dose of, but because of his candor, his independence and frankness, and also because I believe that he, too, understood the true meaning of our great Fraternity. And of course he took great pride in being a thirty-third degree Mason and a Past Grand Master.

I have tried to keep my politics on the basis of arguing the issues rather than the personalities. It has been said that I don't have any real bitter enemies ~~x~~ -- or at least the New York Times said so (laughter) -- in the political arena. I hope that's true. I have always felt that you can disagree without being too disagreeable. I have always thought that you ought to be able to have a difference ^{ing} ~~of a~~ point of view without ~~having it such a difference that we~~ ^{ing} provoke each other.

I am mindful of the philosophy of Freemasonry, and it is a philosophy that means very much to me in my life~~x~~ -- the philosophy of the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. I am proud to belong to a great fraternal organization that does think of family, of country, of community, of service and the spiritual value of principles. I ^{know} ~~think~~ there are those ~~you~~ ^{who} may say that is rather old-fashioned, but might I suggest that many of us today are finding some of the old values and old principles to be ~~really~~ about all that we have to give us any sense of direction or stability. (Applause)

It has been mentioned that this is Law Day. Now I did not get my legal doctrines from my old friend Harry Hershfield, who is here tonight, but he does many things for me. He has told me several stories that I am not going to share with this mixed audience here tonight. (Laughter) But they will be good on the Senate floor, or at least in the cloak room, and they may ease some of the tensions we have these days.

I want to take this occasion, and the few moments that are mine, to say something about Law Day, and I regret to have to be so impolite as to have to leave you earlier than I had anticipated. I am a Senator from Minnesota and I have about a hundred people from my home ^{to} State who will be there with me tomorrow morning for breakfast. Just between us, I don't get appointed to office; I have to run for it, if you know what I mean. (Laughter and applause). I ~~sort of~~ believe in taking care of the constituents, as my dad always used to tell me, as a pharmacist, to take care of the customers. By the way, we still have the drug store, in case you are ever out there in South Dakota. I really hope you

don't mind the commercial, under the circumstances. It's there.
 I was there last Saturday. I am one of those politicians who
 also meets a business payroll. Every month I have to take a look
 at the accounts out there. We provide jobs, we make some invest-
 ments, but we can always use some more business and I thought I
 would just mention it, Brothers, ~~you know~~. (Laughter and applause)
 We'll give a professional or fraternal discount. (Laughter)

~~Law Day~~. I think this is a good time to just take a few moments
 to concentrate our attention on Law Day, because this country
 today is facing many serious problems, ^{and} ^{including} a crisis of
 confidence. Now by crisis I don't mean catastrophe. I mean
 it is a parting of the road, so to speak, where we have to make
 up our minds which direction we are going to travel, ~~what path~~
~~we are going to follow~~. When we come to Law Day, I think it is
 important for us to recall again that this is a nation of laws,
 and not just of men, -- laws of enduring qualities that go far
 beyond the service of any one individual, -- and that the law of
 this land is not only found in that basic document which is so
 precious, our Constitution, but is also found in the common law
 and the heritage of our people. And that heritage today is
 perhaps as meaningful and as commanding as the written law itself.

Part of that heritage, and of course the convictions of
 that heritage, is the Judaic-Christian moral heritage that is ours.
 We are privileged to have it, you know. That Judaic Christian
 heritage that is ours speaks of words like "compassion and justice"
 and "love and brotherhood," "liberty and hope and freedom," of
 service ^{and} ~~ministering~~. My fellow Americans, those are words we
 need to remember today. These are not just words, they are in

fact, the substance and the essence of our lives.

Today we hear a great deal about efficiency. Now do not misunderstand me. I believe that efficiency in business and in any pursuit of life is necessary and good, and I hope that we can have some in government, but I must tell you quite honestly that the Constitution of this country was not constructed for the purpose of promoting efficiency. It was constructed for the purpose of putting road blocks or impediments in the way of tyranny. The men who wrote that Constitution did not write it out of academic theory. They wrote it out of the hard experience of fighting for their freedom, of living under tyrannical conditions. That is why we have checks and balances. That is why we have separation of powers. That is why we have the first ten amendments, and that is why the first amendment is so precious -- that first amendment that so many times bothers us, which so many times makes us wonder if it all was what we thought it was, or what it should be -- the right of dissent, the right of debate, even the right of demonstration. As I told many of my students when I talked with them, "When it's all said and done and we have had the dissent and the debate and the dialogue and discussion, and even the demonstrations, there comes a time when you have to make decisions." And when you make decisions, sometimes you err. But this I want you to keep in mind: we can always change a decision. We have that right. We have it if we protect the methods and the process that assure us of that right. Remember that the majority of today can be a minority of tomorrow. Remember that good government is not merely that which does what the majority wants, but more significantly, protects the rights of

the minority to earn its way to become a majority. It's what we do, as the Scriptures have said to us, "to the least of these, that really is the test."

My favorite Old Testament prophet was Amos. I used to teach a course in Old Testament prophets in Sunday school. I loved it. I studied all of them, ~~you know~~, and, of course, could just bore people to death by quoting them. But they were amazing men, tremendous spirits. You remember how Amos the prophet emphasized continuously this word "justice." When I think of Law Day, I think of one thing, justice. I would remind the audience that you can read the Old and New Testaments, you can read the Magna Carta, you can read the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation -- and that's a pretty good selection of works -- and in all of them you will never find the word "efficiency." It isn't to be found. But you will find the word "justice," ~~you will find the word "brotherhood,"~~ ~~you will find the word "love,"~~ ~~you will find the word "compassion,"~~ ~~you will find the word "freedom; you will find the word "liberty,"~~ ~~and~~ ~~you will find the word "duty."~~ Oh, you'll find marvelous words and charges to us, but not "efficiency."

Now, once again, this is not to say that we shouldn't think in terms of how we can best improve that we are trying to do. Efficiency is a tool for great objectives -- the objective of this Grand Lodge, the objective of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, the objective of all of you. I hope and pray, and I know the objective has been how you can better your lives, your family, your community, your nation -- and hopefully this

world, because we are ^{a very} ~~an~~ interdependent people, ~~--- a very inter-~~
~~dependent people.~~ Mankind is our family.

The Constitution says, "We, the people," not "We, the political parties," not "We, the business men," not "We, the labor leaders," not "We, the teachers," not "We, the politicians," but, "We, the people of these United States, do establish and ordain this constitution." And for what purpose? "To establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, and to promote the general welfare." Ladies and Gentlemen, that's the whole story. The rest of it is detail. That's what it's all about. That's what this system is about. That's what this nation is about.

Now, I'm not a pessimist about our country, despite our problems, despite what I know today is discussed with heartbreak and concern. Just let me say, very quickly, I am not one of those politicians ^{who} ~~that~~ takes any glee in what's happened. I am not ~~one~~ that seeks any partisan ^{an} advantage from it, because I think that some of those things we have been reading ~~about~~ and hearing about of late have literally gnawed at the very vitals of our society, ~~Because without~~ trust and confidence in each other and without trust and confidence in government, the great social contract of popular sovereignty, of government of the people, by the people and for the people cannot long endure. It is trust and confidence and faith that is the cement that holds us together. And today much of that has been shaken, not only in government, but in many areas of life.

I know it is the currency of the times to talk about only the political things. But, ^{today} Ladies and Gentlemen, we see every institution of our society ~~today~~ in trouble. We see family and

church; we see universities; we see business corporations and trade unions. ^{in trouble. It} ~~This~~ isn't just in Washington ^{that} we have representative government. Maybe this does represent what is going on, maybe that's what it is, because ^{true} ~~truly~~ government as we know it is representative. The government is like a pump~~a~~-that which comes out is only that which is drawn from the well of the people. There are no saints in government. It is representative government. Hopefully, those of us who are entrusted with some responsibility can rise to the occasion and know that we have a special duty to perform.

delete? { So I just leave you with this message tonight. I would like to say ^{it} ~~in~~ my own way. I've said it to Congressman Horton, who by the way, was so kind as to urge me to come to this gathering, which I was most happy to do. He and I met together at the White House at a prayer breakfast, praying for each other probably. I trust someone prayed for both of us. (Laughter) I take some pride in being a kind of old fashioned patriot, but I'm not one who just thinks we've lived our best days. I know that we are going through a period of tremendous change.

Everything is changing with the advent of science and technology, ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{their} impact upon us, the increased mobility of our people, the changes all over the world. This afternoon I met with the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Willy Brandt. Changes are taking place in Europe, in the Common Market, changes in the Soviet Union, changes between our country and the People's Republic of China, changes in Japan. Is it any wonder that we find ourselves confused and in turmoil, questioning and

wondering about old values, reaching out to see if we can find new ways?

I don't happen to think that America has lost its way. I think we are just looking for a better way, and because we are, we wander at times. That's why those of us who are privileged to take the vows of Freemasonry, ~~we~~ have a special duty, -- we really do, tonight, ^{have} a special duty. Everyone doesn't have the privilege that has been ours. ¶ When I go to schools I listen to little children recite the Pledge of Allegiance. I also hear adults recite it. I'm going to let you in on a secret: I love to hear children recite it much better than adults. And I'll tell you why. I think they know what they are saying. Sometimes I think we forget. We sort of muddle it. But the Pledge of Allegiance tells us what it's all about, too. "I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands." I am reminded of what Churchill once said of democracy. He said it is the worst possible form of government, except all others that have ever been promulgated. (Laughter). So we get some sense of perspective here: a republic, representative government aspiring to democratic ideals.

Then comes the charge, and I've watched the immigrant who becomes a citizen repeat this, and what a beautiful experience that is. I've stood there when citizenship has been handed out on Law Day, and when they repeat: "One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." And it's all, not any exceptions, brethren, because it isn't just one nation,

it's one nation that recognizes the great sovereignty of divine Providence, "one nation under God." That's what made Masonry. That's what makes ^{9c} Nations. That's why, above all, we are here. The minute we forget that we are children of God Almighty, then we forget the real essence of democratic life. Because if there is any one reason that we have the right to govern ourselves, it is because each of us is blessed with a soul ~~before~~ and life before God, and no one should have the right to govern us without our consent. That is the spiritual basis of democracy -- the preciousness of the individual, God having created man in ~~his~~ own image. Then it is the task for man to be worthy of it.

Then we say, "Indivisible." The time has arrived, my Fellow Americans, when we no longer talk North and South, and East and West, and Black and White, and Protestant, Catholic or Jew. The time has come when we band ourselves together without losing our identity, to find a common purpose, and yet preserve individuality. And it can be done, but it's a monumental task.

Then we say, "With liberty." What a beautiful word, -- not order, not discipline, but liberty, which carries with it duty and self-discipline, which gives meaning to ~~life~~, the beauty of life. Remember that the Declaration of Independence talks about "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." It was ~~later on~~, one hundred years later, before we got to talking about "life, liberty and property." That was after we were rather well set. At the earlier time we were thinking of what we wanted to be as a people, we were talking about God-given

natural, ~~inalienable~~ rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, -- not the guaranty of happiness, but the pursuit, the opportunity to seek it. That is why I have always been competitive, I think. ~~You have to seek, you have to find,~~
~~you have to search for what you want.~~

And "justice" makes it all worthwhile. That's the purpose of a constitution, that's the purpose of law, that's the purpose we have to be just, -- to be kind, to be compassionate, -- but above all to be just, and not just for me, but justice for all, with no man above the law, and all equal with equal protection of the law. That's what we seek.

Thomas Wolfe, the great poet and prose writer in the 30's put it this way: "To every man his chance; to every man, regardless of his birth, his shining golden opportunity; to every man his right to live and to work to be himself and to become whatever fate his manhood and his vision can combine to make him. This is the promise of America." What marvelous words!

detete? Friends, I was on Soviet television some years ago and I had a Russian trying to translate what I was saying. (By the way, I had the privilege of being the first Westerner, the first, not only of America, but Europe, to be on Soviet nationwide television and radio. It was in 1958, when I had that extended conversation with Mr. Khrushchev.) And one word they couldn't get hold of in translation was "opportunity." They stumbled over it, trying to find their word that would say "opportunity." And yet that is

what America stands for so much, if we will just open up our eyes and our minds and clear our thinking.

Carl Sandburg, my favorite poet, emphasized the optimism that I have for America. Listen to these most remarkable, searing, powerful words of this great man who understood the heartbeat and the pulse of this nation: "I see America," said Carl Sandburg, "not in the setting sun or a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of the rising sun, fresh from the creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible for men and women of will and vision."

Brothers, let me tell you, that's it. A nation that has will, and a people that have vision, will have greatness. But a people without vision, said the phrophet, shall perish. Let us have the vision to dream of things yet undone, to work for ~~things~~ yet unknown, but above all let ~~us~~ have the vision to believe that we can make it better.

Thank you very much. I am highly honored. (Standing ovation).

5/25

Pat:

Set up in speech file.

If prepared remarks on that date, simply

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new folder...

Betty



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