

PATRIOTISM, SOCIAL JUSTICE CLOSELY ALLIED

The following speech on "Patriotism" was delivered recently by prominent Reno banking executive H. J. Brown on a National Conference of Christian and Jews program presented by KOLO-TV, Reno. The speech was widely acclaimed for its stimulating and far-reaching espousal of brotherhood in the war against racial bigotry according to VOICE Northern Nevada representative Earl Perkins, a long-time friend of Mr. Brown's.

1. Do people generally have a common meaning for the word "Patriotism"?

The dictionary will explain the meaning of Patriotism as "love of country" and in all probability this is what people generally understand the word to mean. However, there are different kinds of Patriotism and different ways in which people will demonstrate their Patriotism. There is a person who says "My country right or wrong, but right or wrong, my country". This is a kind of 'blind' Patriotism. He is not willing to analyze, he is not willing to criticize, he is not willing to attempt to understand the point of view of any other country. This is 'blind' Patriotism.

Those who were responsible for the founding of this country did not want this type of Patriotism; they wanted a Patriotism of logic and reason. As a result, we have, in our constitutional system, a check and balance between

the various branches of the government. He loves his country most, who is vigilant, who is ready to criticize when criticism is necessary and who wishes to see his country do everything with fairness and honor among the family of nations.

There is still another kind of Patriotism. Let us take, for example, the Free French Movement. After France had fallen during the Second World War, a puppet government was set up in Vichy which was supposed to govern France. The real patriots of France fought this government for love of their country.

Thus we see, even without deep analysis, some of the different ways in which people will demonstrate their Patriotism.

2. Has America lost its Patriotic Spirit? Definitely not. It should never be forgotten that this country was born in strife; it was to throw off the yoke of injustice that this country was founded. And then, the most noble experiment the world has ever known was commenced. To these shores came people from every corner of the world, each group bringing with them their manners, customs and cultures, and from these different masses the United States of America had to emerge. The proof that this experiment has been successful is that today the United States has the highest standard of living in the

world. It is unfortunate, however, that some of these groups have not yet had the opportunity of education to which they feel they are rightfully entitled and have, therefore, not shared in the affluence of the country. But this is not the wish of the government of the United States. It is doing everything in its power to right these wrongs and the government of the United States is composed of the representatives of the people. This means that the vast majority of our people want to see these wrongs righted. The point I want to make is this: the fact that an ethnic group within our midst strives to better itself does not indicate a lack of Patriotism. Conversely, by its internal struggle, it attempts to make the United States a still better country for all its citizens. But as to the original question as to whether America has lost its Patriotic spirit. Should any country or combination of countries attempt to threaten the security of this Nation, then would rise the rich, the poor, the highly-educated, the lowly-educated, every citizen regardless of race, creed or color, to protect and defend this America, the most blessed land on the face of the earth.

As Adlai Stevenson once said, "It is not (See "Patriotism" page 13)"

"RETTIG" (from page 1)

der culture during 5,000 years of human advancement.

Dr. Rettig called attention to the fact that Negroes were smelting iron in Africa while Europeans were still in the Stone Age, that beds originated in Persia, that towels were developed by the Turks, that coffee was first used in Abyssinia, shoes in Crete, coins in Lybia, umbrellas in India and glass in Egypt.

"While these are only scattered illustrations, they indicate how wrong you can be when you put all members of a race or nationalistic group in a stereotyped pattern and judge an individual by the lowest characteristics of that group," Dr. Rettig said.

Chief Janise announced that North Las Vegas would conduct similar meetings in the future. The Human Relations Training Program for Police is one phase of the NCCJ program throughout Clark County.

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