

SAWYER SAYS YOUTH, FREEDOM SUCCESS KEYS

Following is the address delivered by Gov. Grant Sawyer at the University of Nevada Commencement exercises this month:

I have had some experience with commencement addresses on this campus, not as a speaker but as a listener. Some years ago, I sat where you sit today. For the last several years--first as a member of the board of regents and more recently as governor--I have had a place on this platform and have heard addresses from high ranking government officials, distinguished officers of the armed forces, a great American poet and even a governor. I do not recall any poor performances, and I will always remember a couple of inspiring ones.

I am certain each of those speakers faced the same perplexing problem. Just what can you say on an occasion such as this that hasn't been said before; is there anything really so different about the problems and the promise of this year from that of last year or next?

Recognizing this, someone has suggested that we should have a standard address that is carefully prepared to include all of the opportunities and challenges and simply hand the text to each graduate as he receives his diploma. Perhaps every ten years a panel of experts should go over it and update it. This would save the graduates a portion of the last agonizing ritual of four years or so of intellectual harassment and slide them more quickly into whatever course they intend to pursue. It would also eliminate the ringing in the ears that sometimes echoes for days after the last great harangue.

In case, however, you are beginning to think hopefully that I intend to launch this practice today, I want to disabuse you quickly. I have a few things to say.

NEGRO DISCONTENT RISES

• Because I believe 1964 is different. Since some of us mounted this platform one year ago, the course of history has been altered in many ways. The past twelve months have seen the deaths of Pope John, leader of the Catholic church, and John F. Kennedy, leader of the free world; a rising tide of Negro discontent, demonstrations and riots in defiance of 100 years of freedom without equality; easing of world tensions by agreement on a nuclear test ban treaty and establishment of a "hot line" communications link between Washington and Moscow to reduce risk of accidental war; the renewed threat of international armed conflict by border clashes between Syria and Israel and Algeria and Morocco, and internal fights between the forces of freedom and the forces of communism in Laos and Viet Nam; graphic demonstration of the instability of rule by government overthrows in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and others and continued unrest on the African continent; new men into space, dramatic breakthroughs in medicine and increased efficiency in the weapons of death.

This is a new year in the "century of total war" and the "age of overkill." On patrol at this minute in the depths of the world's oceans are nuclear submarines, each with the capacity to unleash more killing power than erupted from all the bombs, bullets and explosives used in World War II; each more destructive than all the wars, earthquakes, floods and plagues visited upon mankind in all history.

This is a new year in what President Kennedy termed the "long twilight struggle... a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself."

This is a new year in the age-old struggle between the common right of humanity and the base ambition of those who would enslave the minds and bodies of others.

And, at the same time, this is a year rich in technological advances for the comfort and survival of man, perhaps the most dramatic evidence yet of what historians call the "collapse of time." Because of the ever-accelerating expansion of knowledge and invention, the lifetime of the state of Nevada--merely 2 per cent to recorded time--has witnessed the achievement of 90 per cent of man's technological progress.

Thus you are entering into the affairs of the world during an era that is rich with promise, and, at the same time, fraught with danger. Were this an age of global tranquility--if, indeed, there ever was such an age in our modern civilization--your horizons in life would be unclouded. Never has our nation been so prosperous; never have opportunities for individual achievement been so bountiful.

In his "open letter to the college graduates of 1964," Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz noted last week that more than one-half million young men and women--the largest graduating class in the history of American higher education--are receiving bachelor's degrees this month.

"And yet," he added, "their numbers will not be nearly sufficient to meet the demands of American industry, which desperately needs millions of bright young minds to fill jobs that have become increasingly complex."

Your personal future, then, would seem secure. You are among the most educated of our nation's citizenry. You have equipped yourselves with the academic skills necessary for success in a highly competitive society.

But your future as a citizen of the world is not secure, and surely this is one of the great ironies of our time. Thirty years ago, your fathers found a world at peace but a nation burdened by economic failure. Today, the outlook is reversed. Where your father found no opportunities, your opportunities are myriad. Where your father feared no international strife--the war to end all wars already had been waged and won--we are perhaps gearing for another.

Each graduating class before you has been told that it was confronted by greater challenges and difficulties than any that preceded it and that it was the hope for a better world.

By now many of the phrases that appear in commencement addresses are hoary with age, but they are inescapable truisms. Cliches or not, you men and women leaving the academic halls of the University of Nevada are going to plunge into a world changing so rapidly that old slogans and dogmas, though still true, are no longer going to be good enough.

The words of Abraham Lincoln in his second annual message to Congress ring even more true today.

"We cannot escape history. We... will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the last generation. The world knows we do know how to save it. We--even we here--hold the power and bear the responsibility. We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last, best hope of earth. The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just--a way which, if followed, the world will forever applaud, and God must forever bless."

A just and lasting peace was Lincoln's hope, as it is ours today. What kind of peace is this? John Fitzgerald Kennedy described it thusly: "Not a pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war. Not the peace of the grave or the security of the slave. I am talking about genuine peace--not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women--not merely peace in our time but peace for all time."

What can we do to move from here toward enduring peace? Every thoughtful citizen who despairs of war should begin by looking inward, by examining his own attitudes toward the possibilities of peace, toward the course of the cold war and toward freedom and strength here at home.

Our negotiations in the councils of the world cannot be effective if our words do not reflect our performance. If we are mired in complacency, our foreign policy will impress no one.

LAW MUST GUARD RIGHTS

We can serve and save freedom only as we practice it in our own lives. We cannot speak of equality of men and nations while not recognizing the constitutional guarantees of free and equal treatment in our own land, irrespective of race, color, creed or national origin. We cannot discuss world law unless our own laws guard the rights of all citizens.

We cannot persuasively express concern with impoverished people in distant lands, when so many of our own are left in want.

A fighting national faith in combatting the defects and inequities of our own society will generate an enthusiasm that will echo across the world. Substantial progress in our internal problems will bolster world confidence in American leadership.

You and young Americans everywhere are the key to our success. You will have to be better than we have been. You have a lot to do, but you have a lot going for you. Despite the daily challenges which ring our world, there is an

exuberance to life today.

For example, the ever-increasing wealth, growth, technological advances which we call "progress" make for excitement and create an atmosphere of glamor. The tempo increases as we rush from one new experience to another, chalking down accomplishments and occasional defeats.

The modern American is hell-bent on creating miracles. We test the theory that there is no problem that cannot be solved, and no obstacle that cannot be overcome. "Think big" is not just an American slogan, but a way of life as well. A cheerful optimism pervades Americana--a secret knowledge that the prize will be ours. A minor setback, or even a major reversal, merely increases our determination to try again.

The typical American, then is as I have described him--imaginative, vigorous and dauntless. I am afraid, however, that sometimes, in our zeal and feverish activity, we tend to forget or misplace basic values.

SOME AFRAID OF CHANGE

All of our fellows are not alike and we have a substantial portion of our citizenry who are not in the race at all, but who tend to counsel from the bleachers. Some call them "prophets of doom" and characterize them as wary of change, suspicious of the maturity and intelligence of those on the field, doing nothing more than warning of the dire consequences of any given act, and forever insisting that whatever the objective, it cannot be accomplished.

Some may fit this narrow and derogatory characterization. A few of them would never change the light from red to green. They would call the game permanently. These few cannot be permitted to prevail. For the most part, however, they are Americans who cherish the intrinsic values of citizenship and are sincerely and vigorously dedicated to preserving them. Their admonishments are as necessary to provide the checks and balances to our society as the "go slow" sign at the intersection is necessary to save lives.

Fortunately, most Americans are a happy combination of both the runner and the observer in the bleachers--most of us run in the right direction. But, regardless of the role we play, we are all caught up in the magic of America--in the great opportunities we have to not only create, but the challenges that are inherent in creation and newness.

We are creating children at an unprecedented rate, and are thus creating a population explosion that will perhaps triple the world's population in your lifetime. We are creating weapons that are capable of absolute and total destruction, we create machines that cause unemployment. But we either continue to create or we decay. The status quo today is decomposition tomorrow. So we must explore the reaches of outer space, we must--and will--continue to populate the earth, we must continue to tackle our social problems, we must continue to create new and better machinery, and as we go, it will take as much daring, imagination and initiative to repair the scars of progress as it took to create it.

Perhaps I have said nothing really new, for the story has always been the same. Whatever the time and place, our lives are what we make of them. The game is ours to play it as we will.

But no man or woman who is not totally devoid of courage, skill and zest could live in this time and place without having a whale of a good time. The thrill of the chase and the occasional conquest, the excitement of accomplishment, make life itself the greatest adventure of all. I hope all of you will be runners, because the bleachers are always full.

Keno Killers
LUCKY LEFTY LIKES
33 34 35 36
45 46 47 48

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