

**(LBJ MESSAGE, from page 2)**

neighbors. There is no part of America where the promise of equality has been fully kept. In Buffalo as well as in Birmingham, in Philadelphia as well as Selma, Americans are struggling for the fruits of freedom.

This is one nation. What happens in Selma or in Cincinnati is a matter of legitimate concern to every citizen. But let each of us look within our own communities, and our own hearts, and root out injustice there.

Tonight men from the South as well as the North, men from the East as well as from the West, are all Americans, all fighting together in Vietnam. Men from every region fought for us across the world 20 years ago.

In these common dangers and these common sacrifices the South made its contribution of honor and gallantry no less than any other region of the great Republic. I have not the slightest doubt that good men from everywhere in this country—from the Great Lakes down to the Gulf of Mexico, from the Golden Gate to the harbors along the Atlantic—will rally now together in this cause to vindicate the freedom of us all. For all of us owe this duty; all of us will respond to it.

The real hero of this struggle is the American Negro. His actions and protests—his courage to risk safety and even life—have awakened the conscience of the nation. His demonstrations have been designed to call attention to injustice, to provoke change and stir reform. He has called upon us to make good the promise of America. And who among us can say we would have made the same progress were it not for his persistent bravery, and his faith in American democracy.

**Force of Moral Right**

For at the heart of battle for equality is a belief in the democratic process. Equality depends not on the force of arms but the force of moral right—not on recourse to violence but on respect for law.

We intend to fight this battle where it should be fought—in the courts, in the Congress and in the hearts of men.

We must preserve the right of free speech and the right of free assembly. But the right of free speech does not carry with it the right to endanger the safety of others on a public highway.

We do have a right to protest—and a right to march under conditions that do not

infringe the constitutional rights of our neighbors. I intend to protect all those rights as long as I am permitted to serve in this office.

We will guard against violence, knowing it strikes from our hands the very weapons with which we seek progress—obedience to law and belief in American values.

In Selma as elsewhere we seek peace. We seek order. We seek unity.

But we will not accept the peace of stifled rights, the order imposed by fear, the unity that stifles protest. For peace cannot be purchased at the cost of liberty.

In Selma, as in every city, we are working for just and peaceful settlement. We must remember that after this speech—after the police and the marshals have gone—after this bill is passed, the people of Selma must still live and work together. When the attention of the nation has gone elsewhere they must try to heal the wounds and build a new community. This cannot easily be done on a battleground of violence, as the history of the South itself shows. It is in recognition of this that men of both races have shown such impressive responsibility in recent days.

The bill I am presenting will be known as a civil rights bill. But, in a larger sense, most of the program I am recommending is a civil rights program. Its object is to open the city of hope to all our people.

**Privilege of Citizenship**

All Americans must have the right to vote. And we are going to give them that right.

All Americans must have the privileges of citizenship regardless of race. And they are going to have those privileges.

But to exercise that privilege takes more than legal rights. It requires a trained mind and a healthy body. It requires a decent home, and the chance to find a job, and the opportunity to escape from poverty.

Of course people cannot contribute to the nation if they are never taught to read or write, if their bodies are stunted from hunger, if their sickness goes untended, if their life is spent in hopeless poverty.

We want to open the gates to opportunity. But we are also going to give all our people—black and white—the help they need to walk through those gates.

My first job after college was as a teacher in a small

Mexican-American school. My students were poor and often hungry, and they knew, even in their youth, the pain of prejudice. They didn't understand why people disliked them. But they knew it was so. You could see it in their eyes.

I often walked home after classes wishing there was more I could do. But all I knew was to teach them the little I knew—hoping it might help them against the hardships that lay ahead.

Somehow you never forget what poverty and hatred can do when you see its scars on the hopeful face of a child.

I never thought then that I might be standing here. It never occurred to me that I might have the chance to help the sons of those students—and people like them all over this country.

But now that I have this chance, I mean to take it.

And I hope that you will take it with me.

**Might of Empires**

This is the richest and most powerful country which ever occupied the globe. The might of past empires is little compared to ours.

But I do not want to be the President who built empires, or sought grandeur, or extended dominion.

I want to be the President who educated young people to the wonders of their world—the President who fed the hungry—and helped the poor to find their own way—and enriched the simple, daily lives of every family. And I want to be the President who helped to end hatred among his fellow men, and war among the brothers of this earth.

And I want to share this task with you, and with the people we serve. I want this to be the Congress—Democrats and Republicans alike—which did all these things.

Beyond this great chamber are the people we serve. Who can tell what deep and unspoken hopes are in their hearts tonight? We all can guess, from our own lives, how difficult they often find their own pursuit of happiness. They look most of all to themselves for their future. But they also look to us.

Above the pyramid on the great seal of the United States it says—in Latin—"He has favored our undertaking."

God will not favor everything we do. It is rather our duty to divine His will. But I cannot help believing He truly favors the undertaking we begin tonight.



**HEAD METHODIST WOMEN**--These are newly elected officers of Women's Society of Christian Science of Zion Methodist Church. From left: Mmes. Calantha Walker, publicity chairman; Azaree Glaze, president; Mal George, vice president; Atha Toliver, recorder; Jeanette Carr, membership commissioner; Ida Crudup, spiritual life secretary; Ada Grigsby, supply secretary; Gertrude Fortson, treasurer; Cora Jackson, missionary education secretary; Elizabeth Snowden, Cora Woods, membership and cultivation secretary; Gladys Smith, Almata Moody, local church activities secretary, and Verma Williams, publicity secretary.

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