

### (AMERICA, from page 2)

thinking, uninformed, vituperative chorus telling us what's wrong with America -- and I think you are too.

I think it's long past time for those of us who KNOW how fabulous this country really is to speak up for it -- to start talking back -- to tell the story of what's RIGHT with America.

Twelve million of our people have moved up and across the poverty line since 1961. That's right with America.

Around 6 million of our young people are in college today -- about one-third more than four years ago. That's right with America.

The average American has a higher standard of living than the average citizen of any other country. That's one thing that's right with America.

The average American's real income -- after allowing for higher prices -- has risen 18 percent in the past seven years. That's another thing that's right with America.

This spirit in the breasts of millions of Americans who have gone before us created the tensions that brought us equality at the ballot box, that cracked the grip of the economic royalists of the 19th and early 20th centuries, that started a peaceful revolution toward economic opportunity for the common man, and that joined a concept of social concern for all of the changes sweeping the economic framework of the Nation.

It brought us today's tension, today's unrest as a reaffirmation of that spirit because we know that what we have done is not enough. We know that economic opportunity is not yet open to all -- and that discrimination and poverty keep millions from the chance at decent lives, from the opportunity for human dignity central to that revolutionary ideal -- and, most important, we know that it need not be so.

There is work to be done -- work by me and work by you, for this is your revolution, too. It belongs to us all.

And what each of YOU does in this ongoing revolution is more important than what I do, or what anyone else in government does, because in truth the unfinished task does not lie in Washington, or in the State Capitol or in City Hall.

It lies in the daily lives of the women, and the men and the children, in every community across this land.

Government can administrate, government can legislate -- it can help -- but it can't provide the enlightened local leadership, the attitudes of mind and heart that determine what a community does with what it has, materially and spiritually, in the service of all its people.

These are born and nurtured -- and yes changed -- by the people themselves, and only by them.

Now I am not going to suggest that you go home and take the nearest soap box or pulpit and orate for change in your community. We have too many people talking too much about too many things already.

Nor am I going to suggest that you go home and study the issues involved. I suspect that most of you have done that and reaped a swarm of perplexities and a mass of doubts.

I say "welcome to the club"; and then I am going to suggest that you go home and get involved, not with the issues, but with the very stuff of the issues -- that you go where the action is, not the oratory and debate; that you get your hands dirty grappling with the grimy problems that fester to one degree or another in every community large or small.

This is what it will take -- on the spot concern and on the spot help by men and women of good will in every community -- if we are to create opportunity, justice, the chance for human dignity for ALL Americans.

And it is the extent of this concern -- this willingness of Americans to invest themselves as well as their vote in meeting all the challenges that remain in this fabulous country -- that will determine the course of the ongoing revolution.

There are frontiers still ahead of us. There are miracles still to be wrought. The life of free men and women has never been easy -- and it never will be. A free society is built, as President Johnson has said, by people of good will "brick by brick in the heat of the day." And the building never stops.

Those things that are still wrong with the United States of America can, and will, be made

right. That has always been the faith and the hope of the American people. That is why this Nation has been, and is today, and will remain tomorrow -- a fabulous country."

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