

REMARKS, GOVERNOR VIC ATIYEH
Y.M.C.A. YOUTH LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHAMBER
FEBRUARY 23, 1983 5:00 P.M.

PREPARED TEXT

BY PARTICIPATING TODAY IN THIS 36TH ANNUAL YOUTH
LEGISLATURE, EACH OF YOU IN YOUR OWN WAY IS PERFORMING SERVICE.

YOU ARE SERVING YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING.
AND BY INCREASING THAT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING, YOU ARE
SERVING YOUR STATE AND YOUR COUNTRY.

THE HERITAGE OF OUR COUNTRY IS BASED ON SERVICE. IN
FACT, SERVICE AND HERITAGE ARE INSEPARABLE. ONE QUITE FREQUENTLY
CREATES THE OTHER.

THOSE WHO FOLLOW US WILL LOOK BACK, AND CAREFULLY SELECT
WHICH OF THOSE THINGS WE HAVE DONE THAT CAN PROUDLY BE ADDED TO
THE UNSEEN MONUMENT CALLED HERITAGE.

OUR HERITAGE -- FROM THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE TO
THE PRESENT DAY -- HAS ORIGINATED FROM, AND RESPONDED TO, THE
SERVICE RENDERED OUR NATION BY COUNTLESS HUMAN BEINGS. SOME --
LIKE WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN -- HAVE BEEN GIANTS. OTHERS HAVE
CONTRIBUTED IN LESSER WAYS. STILL OTHERS HAVE ACTED TO DISFIGURE
THE MONUMENT WE HAVE BUILT.

BUT OUR HISTORY HAS BEEN, AND CONTINUES TO BE, A HISTORY OF PROGRESS AND FORWARD MOTION. JUST AS A STATUE IS NOT SCULPTED FROM A SINGLE STROKE OF THE CHISEL, SO OUR HERITAGE HAS NOT BEEN SHAPED BY ONE ACT ALONE. EACH PERSON, IN HIS OWN TIME, HAS MADE HIS OWN IMPRESSION -- FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.

BESIDES OUR CONTRIBUTION OF SERVICE, WE HAVE ANOTHER OBLIGATION: STEWARDSHIP. STEWARDSHIP IS AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY. IT MEANS NOT JUST HANGING ONTO WHAT WE HAVE, BUT PROTECTING IT AND CONSERVING IT FOR OTHERS WHO WILL COME AFTER. AND STEWARDSHIP -- ABOVE ALL -- MEANS BUILDING ON RATHER THAN REPEATING THE WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE.

conclusion

THOSE OF US IN POLITICS SEE EVERY DAY THE TREMENDOUS ODDS TO BE FACED. PERHAPS YOU HAVE GLIMPSED THEM TODAY YOURSELVES. IT IS TRUE THAT OUR NEEDS CHANGE AS OUR COUNTRY GROWS. MOST OF US IN GOVERNMENT AGREE THAT LAWS MUST BE CHANGED TO MATCH THE CHANGING NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS.

THE REAL CONTEST, HOWEVER, IS NOT OVER CHANGING NEEDS -- BUT OVER PRINCIPLES. WE CAN ALWAYS ADJUST OUR LAWS -- BUT WE MUST NEVER SACRIFICE OUR PRINCIPLES. OUR CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL PROGRESS FOR OVER 200 YEARS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF OUR UNSHAKEABLE FAITH IN THE LIVING PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH OUR COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED.

THE ACID TEST OF OUR CREDIBILITY AS PUBLIC OFFICIALS IS IN NOT MERELY PAYING LIP SERVICE TO THESE PRINCIPLES, BUT IN PRACTICING THEM. AND THE TEST OF OUR COURAGE IS IN SPEAKING OUT ON BEHALF OF OUR PRINCIPLES IN ALL OF OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

OUR FOREFATHERS LEFT THEIR PRINCIPLES IN OUR TRUST. LIKE A GREAT ARCHER, THEY SHOT THE ARROW OF THEIR FAITH FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE. OUR TASK IS NOT TO STEP BACK AND START OVER -- BUT RATHER TO GRASP FIRMLY THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN, AND DO OUR PART TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE ARROW OF OUR COUNTRY'S FAITH FLIES FORWARD STRONGLY ON A COURSE THAT IS STRAIGHT AND TRUE.

IN ACCEPTING THIS CHALLENGE, OUR HERITAGE WILL BE MADE SECURE BY THE SERVICE WE OURSELVES GIVE. AND WITH PRIDE WE CAN CARRY ON A SACRED DUTY THAT TO THIS DAY IS THE LIFE AND HEARTBEAT OF A GREAT NATION.

I BELIEVE THAT ALL OF YOU ARE HERE TODAY BECAUSE YOU SHARE THIS FAITH WITH ME. AND I KNOW THAT, BY WORKING AT SERVICE AND ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO DO THE SAME, EACH OF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CARVE YOUR OWN SPECIAL MARK ON THE HERITAGE OF OUR COUNTRY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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