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Telephone speech

Central Volunteers luncheon

Grand Rapids Sept. 24, 1965

Naturally, I am disappointed that I am ~~not~~^{not} ~~in Grand Rapids~~ in Grand Rapids with you today. I hope you understand that work in the House of Representatives ~~today~~^{prevents} a personal visit with you.

While talking with you by telephone today, I am looking out of my office window in the Capitol. It is a magnificent view of the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Mall, ~~and the heart of~~ the national shrine of democracy.

Looking at the heartland of the American republic, I ~~wonder~~^{ask} when we look at ourselves as citizens of this democracy if we wonder what makes us tick.

We clamor for speed laws that will stop fast driving, but we won't buy a car that won't make at least 100 miles an hour.

We have more food to eat than any other country and more ~~diets to eat~~ diets to keep us from eating it.

We know the line-up of major league baseball teams, but we don't know all the words of the "Star Spangled Banner."

And, it's surprising how many Americans visit the Capitol and think it is the White House.



We may appear inconsistent, but there is a long line of consistency that started in the beginnings of our country that has run down to our own time---it is a consistency in the essential and lasting values.

I have a personal reason, aside from others, for being happy in helping celebrate the 20th anniversary of Central Volunteers.

My father was among those who founded this agency of human kindness and service to others. He often talked about the work of this dedicated group of citizens. I'm sure he looked upon his part in helping to establish the organization as a real opportunity to ^{serve} ~~his~~ his beloved community.

It is heart-warming, especially in these turbulent times, to see a dedicated ~~band of~~ citizens put others ahead of themselves.

Central Volunteers for 20 years ^{has} ~~has~~ achieved two major goals--- the agency has ~~these~~ provided much-needed manpower and ~~given~~ has given individuals opportunities to occupy their free time in a rewarding manner.

Thousands of citizens have set splendid examples for others. The community has a grateful heart for the blessing of those who are so mindful of the needs of others.



In the troubled times of today, it is only natural that the material aspects of our responsibilities should give us so much concern and demand so much of our attention.

Our entire way of life is under attack by an enemy motivated and guided by a materialistic philosophy. We cannot afford to neglect those things in which the enemy professes strength, and by which the enemy seeks to dominate the world. If we did otherwise, we would fail to meet the challenge which is laid before us.

Despite this urgency, we must not forget our responsibilities to the spiritual and ~~material~~ human aspects of our freedom. ~~It~~ These responsibilities distinguish us from our enemy, and constitute our greatest strength.

Central Volunteers as a group has maintained ~~the~~ the responsibilities to the spiritual and human aspects by the unselfish giving of time and talent to meet the needs of the community.

It is notable that volunteers come from all segments of the community... teenagers, senior citizens, businessmen and homemakers....and from 35 church and service organization groups.

Volunteers exemplify the responsibility of faith.

~~Having, however, no other means of communication~~



For a few minutes this noon I would like to discuss ~~our freedoms~~ ^{our freedoms} that
~~go~~ ^{go} ~~are~~ hand-in-hand with the responsibility of faith.

The freedom of enterprise...the freedom of initiative...the freedom
of election-----long a part of our way of life-----must be guarded
and protected.

There are ~~men~~ ^{those} in the world today who envy and fear us. They are
envious and fearful of our priceless freedom, which is the source of
our strength...it constitutes the greatest threat to their
heavy-handed, iron-fisted power over hundreds of millions of people.

The freedom of America threatens the enemy's aspirations to tuthlessly
dominate the world.

The ~~is~~ ^{Communist} ~~rulers~~ ^{conscious} ~~of~~ their failures and inability to
those they led to forego freedom, have turned their efforts toward
the free world. They generate unrest and disastisfaction. They
invade. They commit tuthless agression.

Leaders of the Communist conspiracy know full well that the existence
of freedom is the most immediate and direct threat to their power.

The United States, because it is spiritually and materially the
wealthiest nation on earth, is the principal target of the Communist
conspiracy.

We, of course, are not alone in our struggle against world Communism.

Other nations enjoy freedom and cherish it as ~~we do~~ ^{we do} ~~do~~ ^{do}.



As President Eisenhower so aptly stated: "more closely than ever before, American freedom is interlocked with the freedom of other people. In the task of maintaining unity, the greatest responsibility falls to those who, like ourselves, retain the most freedom and the most strength."

As concerned as we must be with the international aspects of our responsibilities as free men, we must not neglect our obligation to ~~maintain~~ ^{maintain} a strong and developing economy at home.

To achieve this goal, all segments of our people must cooperate. None must seek to gain an unfair advantage at the expense of another.

It is in this area of cooperation and service that ^{the} Central Volunteers agency has set an exceptional example.

While there are differences among us as to how our prosperity can best be obtained, we must never permit them to become crystallized into class attitudes. It is the theory of class struggle---pitting man against man---that the modern Communist hopes to create dissension among us and to weaken our cause.

Our prosperity must be maintained through the medium of private enterprise and initiative. This freedom must be preserved, for it is the foundation upon which our structure of liberty rests.

We must preserve and strengthen the right of every man to formulate and hold to his own opinions on religious, political, and social questions.



Liberty, of course, is not license. To advocate and defend freedom of speech and discussion does not mean that we must not protect ourselves against those who naively and willfully abuse them.

Another primary responsibility imposed upon us as free men is that of educating our children in the ways of freedom. We must give to them a full appreciation and understanding of the values which have made this Nation a great one.

If my add a footnote----- I salute all the young people who give of themselves as Central Volunteers. Young men and young women set a splendid example of service for others to follow.

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Volunteers

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As a Nation we may build the strongest defense, acquire the greatest
wealth, and prosper in all material things, but our accomplishments
will have little meaning if they do not rest upon a firm spiritual
foundation.

It was strength of spirit which made possible the founding of this
nation. It was that strength which supported it through its adversities.

We must renew and replenish that strength. We can set our guidelines
by following the splendid example set by Central Volunteers and
all others who give unselfishly of themselves.

With faith in God, faith in ourselves, and faith in our freedom,
we will surmount the obstacles in our paths. We will establish a
secure and meaningful peace in a world where free men may work and live
without fear.

I join in ^{applauding} ~~celebrating~~ the Central Volunteers agency---an organization
~~dedicated to service~~ ^{service} ~~dedicated to helping others...~~ dedicated to
the principle of putting the needs of others first... dedicated
to the concept that we are our brother's keeper... dedicated
to the task of accepting the responsibilities of citizenship.

Thank you for inviting me to share this experience with you on
the 20th anniversary of Central Volunteers.

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