

The original documents are located in Box D13, folder “Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, July 4, 1949” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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July 4th Speech - 1949

Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

I Introduction - Dr Proctor
Alfred Heitmuller - 100 yrs old.
Heinrich -

II Historical

1) Declaration of Independence - 1776
A) Anniversary - 2) Death of Thomas Jefferson - 1826

July 2, 1776 - Motion carried for D. of I.
B) Background - July 4, 1776 - Final vote.
(Continental Congress) "We were at war"
July 8, 1776 }
Speaker John Nixon summed
up by Com. of Safety + Com. of Inspection
(including Benj. Franklin, Read
on platform of Rittenhouses
Observatory, Front of Independence
Hall, Liberty Bell).

III Significance of Declaration + Constitution + Revolution
Theme throughout is "LIBERTY" - Patrick Henry.

A) Battle for "freedom" + not security.
Patrick Henry - "Give me liberty or give me death"
Benefits from being a part of British
not sufficient to outweigh advantages
of independence + freedom.

B) Trying days - Valley Forge
Tom Paine's "Crisis"
(Dec. 1776)

IV Situation today on 173 Anniversary.

We have a Constitution created in an atmosphere
of freedom + written to preserve freedom. a
system of checks + balances for that purpose.



Now, that same historic document
being used for furtherance of security
rather than as a guarantor of freedom.

I am not opposed to providing security,
I simply differ with the method by which
security is being obtained at the sacrifice
of individual freedom.

Why do we use a different method now?

a) Political indifference - 50% of voters

b) Civic indifference -

Liberty was gained by revolution, it can be lost the
same way, but it can also be lost by the slow process of
attrition & this is more dangerous. It is deadly since it
is deceptive. Indifference is the breeding ground. It is an
insidious & subtle enemy.

What can be done

a) Toynbee - challenges & responses
in the past

"Study of History" - western
civilization must continue to
climb & advance. Once it comes
to rest or falls back, it is doomed.



Conclusion - Napoleon drummer boy story.

By a rebirth of spirit, by new inspiration, we can
get liberty, freedom & opportunity rather than security through
statism