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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
JOHN A. VOLPE, BEFORE THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND
JEWS, HALL OF INDUSTRY SHOW GROUNDS, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,
THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1971

In my many years of public life -- as Governor of Massachusetts and during two tours of duty in Washington -- I have attended brotherhood dinners in several cities. The list of recipients is long and distinguished.

But few cities, states or regions have had the opportunity you have tonight. The lives of Mrs. David Terry and John Heiskell have influenced the people of this city, this state, this region for nearly a century.

Their qualities of courage and strength and brotherhood are indelibly etched in the history of Arkansas. No one in this city can consider a public issue, check out a library book, or visit a public school without feeling the spiritual presence of these two distinguished Americans.

Tonight we gather to return but a small token for their full measure of devotion. We honor them for past achievements. But they -- on their part -- have given us a blueprint for the future.

The women's liberation movement of today would do well to study Mrs. Terry's lessons. The story goes that after she had studied the public school crisis here in 1957 she said, "I see the men have failed again. I'll have to send for the young ladies."

She did. And as we see tonight, her beauty and feminine graces have not diminished one bit.

Mrs. Terry has always had a close ally in John Heiskell. Certainly, their alliance has always been a compelling force for public unification on many civic issues.

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Tonight's citation recipients exemplify the meaning of the word "brotherhood" in every way. They have practiced brotherhood in the practical fashion -- by applying it to the problems of the day. They never forgot that human dignity and human kindness is paramount to all forms of ideology.

Nathaniel Hawthorne touched on this subject in his story of "Ethan Brand", the New England lime-burner.

As Hawthorne tells it, however, Ethan Brand left his limestone burning in intellectual pursuit of the unpardonable sin. In the end he returned a broken and lonely man. And he revealed the unpardonable sin to be, "the sin of an intellect that triumphs over the sense of brotherhood with man and reverence for God."

We must be sure that as individuals -- and as a Nation -- we never commit that unpardonable sin -- the sin of placing intellect ahead of reverence and love. My friends, we live in troubled times. As never before, the hearts of Americans are crying for peace. Peace between nations. Peace between generations. Peace between individuals. In every case, the ingredients that can make peace a reality are the same -- understanding, tolerance, forgiveness and love.

We need today a rebirth of stamina, perseverance and determination. We need concern for our fellow man in our homes, businesses, governments -- and in all the nations of the world in all the corners of the globe.

America is still the hope of the world. It is a great country -- made that way by strong willed men and women of conviction. And those convictions were rooted in the religious teachings of our forefathers -- in the honest spirit of brotherhood.

Sir Kenneth Clark, famed British art historian, recently produced a 13-part documentary on the history of civilization. Perhaps some of you saw it on television.

Sir Kenneth ended his very sophisticated and eloquent program with these simple words: "I believe that order is better than chaos, creation better than destruction. I prefer gentleness to violence, forgiveness to vendetta. On the whole, I think that knowledge is preferable to ignorance

and I am sure that human sympathy is more valuable than ideology."

Human sympathy, a concern for fellow man, a deep sense of brotherhood -- these are the qualities that have guided mankind throughout the history of civilization. Indeed, they are the hallmark of a civilized world. And they are the qualities that will make us better citizens of America -- better citizens under God.

Each of us must explore the best application of these principles in our daily lives.

We must apply brotherhood to our children -- to understand them -- to help them understand our complex world.

We must apply brotherhood to our Nation -- to understand the great issues of the day -- and to see the human faces behind them.

Your efforts on behalf of brotherhood provide a beacon for all America. And I am extremely proud to join you tonight in honoring Mrs. David Terry and Mr. John Heiskell.

Thank you.

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