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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE, BEFORE THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS, DINNER, AMERICANA HOTEL, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1970, 7:30 P.M.

Thank you sincerely for that most-flattering introduction. I am reminded of a function in Florida last year where the toastmaster brought me on by saying "Our speaker today is a man who needs all the introduction he can get! Then he added, "John Volpe is the man who has brought the Department of Transportation from relative obscurity to total oblivion!"

I guess I should point out that it was a meeting of the Saints and Sinners Organization, and that I was being roasted within an inch of my life.....

I am delighted to be here for your Annual Major Industries Dinner. As Governor of Massachusetts I spoke on several occasions at the National Conference of Christians and Jews Banquet in Boston. I am well aware of the outstanding work this organization does to build better relationships among men of all religions, races, and nationalities. In the family of man, brotherhood is an heirloom to be cherished.

In these difficult and precarious times, a distinguished service aware in the field of human relations is of special significance. Some pundits have called this an era of "inhuman relations."

Certainly, it is an era that calls unmistakably for individual courage and moral leadership.

Tonight the conference honors -- and all of us here honor -- a man who has demonstrated those qualities in his private life, in his business life, and in his concern for the welfare of the Nation. I am indeed honored to help pay tribute to Floyd Hall.

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I first met Floyd in 1965 when I was Governor of Massachusetts. I was privileged to attend Eastern Air Lines' Corporate Management Conference where we discussed their proposed new terminal at Boston's Logan Airport. That building is now completed, by the way, and it is truly a showcase.

Since I have been Secretary of Transportation, of course, we have met often concerning matters of mutual interest in the aviation field. In fact, he and I will be having dinner again tomorrow night in Washington along with several other airline presidents.

In transportation circles, Floyd Hall is known as a man of considerable dignity who has been a dynamic force in the development of commercial aviation. He was instrumental in the growth of passenger aircraft from pistons to jets; and now to the wide-bodied 747.

One of the things that really made me sit up and pay attention when I became Secretary was the fact that in the past ten years alone, the number of airline passengers increased by 204-percent, and revenue miles jumped by some 250-percent.

And Floyd Hall has fostered this growth and made it efficient and effective. He is truly a leader of his industry.

Perhaps not so well known -- except among colleagues and friends -- is his interest in one of the oldest forms of transportation: breeding Arabian horses at his ranch in New Mexico. I also understand that he has made a name for himself among a group of fellow aerospace executives -- the "Conquistadors" -- who get together every year to relax and enjoy western life.

It seems that last year Floyd won the knife-throwing contest with considerable gusto. At least one observer suggested that he may have mistaken the target for a picture of the Civil Aeronautics Board! I'm certain, however, that the Trans-Pacific Route awards were far from his mind!

As president of Eastern Air Lines -- and a man who has dedicated considerable time and energy to such organizations as the American Cancer Society, the Urban Coalition, Recordings for the Blind, and the U.S. Savings Bond Campaign -- Floyd Hall truly exemplifies the objectives of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. You could not have made a better choice for the Brotherhood Award.

You have made it eminently clear that "the wings of man" and the brotherhood of man fly in the same clear skies.

And I am sure that you -- like all Americans today -- are feeling a widespread concern for the state of the Nation.

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.

These are the simple lessons of coexistence taught by prophets in the streets of Jerusalem. Why are those lessons, those teachings, hard to find today -- on the streets of New York, or Moscow, or Hanoi, or any other city?

Perhaps it is because these virtues have become hidden under the pretense and problems of modern life.

In the United States, we are now a Nation of over 200 million people. But we are even more crowded than that.

Preliminary totals from the 1970 Census indicate 36.2 million people -- 18 percent of all United States residents -- live between Boston and Washington. Seven cities in that corridor have over one million residents. This city -- New York -- has 11.4 million.

It isn't easy to keep your perspective when your next door neighbors number in the thousands. Malcolm Boyd, who has been referred to as "chaplain-at-large to university students," touched on this problem in a book of prayers he published a few years back. The title of the book, which sums up today's fast pace, is: "Are You Running With Me, Jesus?"

Some people might react to a title like that by saying "slow down, America...retrench, think again, go back to the good old days'." Well I know, and you know, and Floyd Hall knows -- that no matter how hard we might try to run BACKWARDS, retrenchment has never been able to make troubles disappear.

You know -- and I know -- that we can't shrink our 50 great States back to 13 feeble colonies.

You know -- and I know -- that we can't put a half-century of incredible technology on a garbage scow and tow it out to sea.

You know -- and I know -- that we can't go back to the general store, the team of mules, the cracker barrel, the steam locomotives, the band concerts in the park, the swing on the back porch.

No, my friends, the comfortable insularity of the back porch has -- whether we like it or not -- become only a memory.

We can, however, reaffirm many of the moral and spiritual values associated with those times.

And I submit that we must reaffirm those values in the face of today's increasing tendency to distrust or discredit traditional values, values that you and I grew up with, values that have given purpose to our lives.

I am bothered for example by a prevailing idea that all things are easy -- that effort and work are unnecessary.

I think almost all of us here tonight can look back on times of hardship and difficulty. We learned the hard way. Our times, for many of us, began with the depression.

We came of age in a decade of despair. We began our careers in a time of war. I can well remember my own youth. I cannot forget the winter afternoons my brothers and I were sent down to the railroad tracks to pick up lumps of coal for the stove at home.

I'm sure many of you can tell similar stories.

Yet I often hear today's parents say, "there just aren't any lumps of coal left for my sons to pick up." Nonsense! There are a multitude of avenues for experiencing hard work and discipline.

I'm not quite sure why it is so difficult to find those avenues. Perhaps it is a consequence of the surrender

to weakness by some of our adult population. We claim we are the land of the free. Yet too many of us increasingly subject ourselves to unnatural dependencies -- dependency on stimulants, dependency on psychiatry, dependency on sex and dependency on handouts.

We boast that we are the home of the brave and yet too many are increasingly afraid of the streets, afraid of responsibility and afraid of ourselves. Too many of us -- too often -- are letting ourselves be buffeted by the winds of vast impersonal forces.

Yes, we need today a rebirth of stamina, perseverance and determination. And I believe that whether we are concerned with home, business, government or nations, we can find that rebirth in the supreme being who created us all.

Constantine, the first Christian emperor of Rome, tried to strengthen both church and state by merging them. The church was made tax exempt and the sign of the cross appeared on Roman coins -- much as our coins say "In God We Trust."

Today there are forces that would abolish those spiritual connections. And I am concerned. The constitutional principle of separation of church and state is beyond question. But I am concerned about the efforts to separate religious principles from national purposes.

President Nixon, speaking to 15,000 cheering students at Kansas State University last month, said: "We today face the greatest crisis in the history of American education -- the crisis of spirit."

The President continued: "Those decencies, those self-restraints, those patterns of mutual respect for the rights and feelings of one another, the willingness to listen to somebody else without trying to shout him down -- these are what we must preserve if freedom itself is to be preserved."

Understanding, forgiveness, tolerance and love -- I know that those qualities can -- and must -- be preserved if civilization is to prevail. Certainly, there are a multitude of good people, dedicated people, working to see that they are.

When campus disorders were at their peak two years ago, the headlines would have had us think a massive, irresponsible revolution was just around the corner. Yet the facts are that major disruptions of students participating in this campus violence was only 70,000 -- 70,000 out of a total of over 7 1/2 million. That is less than one percent.

The obvious fact is not revolution; the fact is that 99 percent of our young people understand the freedoms in a democracy, understand the opportunities for advancement in America, and understand the value of an education. And it is now the responsibility of this overwhelming majority to assume leadership in teaching those values to the radical minority.

They are doing it, and you are doing it.

The National Conference of Christians and Jews has been working since 1928 to build better relationships in our society. I salute you for that work.

I know first hand of your programs to emphasize the role of parents in bridging the generation gap, of your work with law enforcement officials, and of your many efforts on behalf of equal opportunity. The National Conference has conducted 26 seminars in the past four years for Department of Transportation personnel.

Your Vice President, Dr. Leonard Aires, has taken his team throughout the United States to meet with our Federal Aviation Administration managers, and to discuss such topics as, "overcoming organization bias" and "sense and nonsense about race."

This is a subject which I feel very strongly about. I know what it means to be part of a minority. In Boston in the 1920's, we lived in a different section of town. We spoke a different brand of English and we tended to stay in our own neighborhoods. And now that I am in a position to help other minorities, I want to do it.

A little more than a year ago, the Department of Transportation did not have a single black or female in a top management post; its equal opportunity employment record was one of the worst in government.

Today 22 minority and female employees are in executive level or "supergrade" positions. And overall minority hiring has just about doubled. I thank the National Conference of Christians and Jews for helping me make those achievements possible.

In closing, I want to briefly comment on the President's recent initiatives for peace in South Viet Nam. His five-point program is now on the table at the Paris peace talks. It includes a ceasefire, a call for an Indochina peace conference, a willingness to negotiate a timetable for total United States and North Vietnamese troop withdrawal, principles of a political settlement (with open elections) and immediate release of all prisoners of war.

This is the most direct and the most comprehensive proposal for ending the Viet Nam War that has ever been presented. My friends, think of this fact: If there is to be a cease fire, it will be the first time since those victorious but dismal days of World War II that there was no fighting -- no taking of human lives -- anywhere in the world.

I pray that we shall soon see a response from Hanoi that will lead to settlement of this conflict. I ask you to join all Americans in giving the President the support -- and prayers -- he needs to conclude this war.

To use the President's words, "Let us give our children what we have not had in this century, a chance to enjoy a generation of peace."

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