

Subject: Your Speech

Date: Tue, 22 Oct 2002 13:48:48 -0400

From: AWest@jasa.org

To: grannyd@monad.net

Doris,

I have attached a copy and pasted it in below, just in case you cannot open the attachment.

Thanks again for this powerful speech.

Take care,

Amy

(See attached file: Granny D's Speech.doc)

Thank you for that fine introduction. Sometimes I wonder who that person is, being introduced, surely not this old woman! I would like to express my appreciation for the work you are doing. Now it is my pleasure to introduce my son Jim, without whose help, I suspect I would never have left Dublin, N.H.

I am here as a volunteer for the Alliance for Democracy. I have traveled under their aegis for the past two years to various states working to enact public funding. We have four states who have enacted a clean elections law with 30 more states working to do so. The system of public funding is our hope for the future.

If you ask the common American to describe the America he or she wants us to be, you will hear this: "We are the country that represents freedom, opportunity and fairness. We use our strength to help people around the world. We oppose brutal regimes and work toward world health and justice and democratic participation of all people. The Statue of Liberty is our beacon to the world."

The common American wants the American government to be that-to be that every day-in every corner of the world.

The common American would never answer: "America is this: We will support any brutal regime so long as they provide us with the cheap labor and materials we need, and so long as they keep any competing political systems out of the region. We will finance the massacre of peasants and workers, the torture of journalists and clerics, and the rape of nature and the sky itself so that we may live pleasantly today in America."

The common American feels ill at such words. And yet that is the vision of America that many people in the world carry in their angry hearts. They see their miserable lives and their precious children and land being sacrificed for our luxury. They see our U.S. made helicopters and jets and guns and rockets suppressing and killing them. Naturally, they celebrate when we are made to suffer.

The disconnection between their perception and ours is profound. Our people are stunned at the idea that we are not universally loved. So must all Americans see America as the world sees us, so that we can strive for justice and the peace that comes with justice.

The man in the White House, there by a Coup d'Etat should apologize for the most serious breach of internal security in the nation's history, not disguise his failure in calls for war. Can he hope that the fiery

explosions in New York and Washington and Pennsylvania will be more acceptable to us if they are placed in a larger context of explosions of our own making? I do not rally around that idea. It is "wag the dog" taken to an extreme level, for he is not covering up his failures with a fake war, but with a real one.

He has taken every opportunity to make the world less safe, first in North Korea and then in the Mideast and in Russia and in China. He needs a dangerous world to sell his military vision of the future. He is getting it. We must not go along with him.

Some sixty years ago Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered his 'four freedoms' State of the Nation speech to Congress as he prepared the nation for war. In it, he laid down the sensible and humane preconditions for future world peace and democracy.

Since Mr. Bush insists on preparing us for his war against evil, let him learn from that great speech. Let me read you the final paragraphs:

"In the future days which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression-everywhere in the world."

Now Mr. Bush, do not tell us that we must prepare to lose our freedom of speech and our rights to privacy, so that you and your corporate-military complex can continue to abuse the world safely. Do not take away our first freedom. You have installed your closest political associate to be head of FEMA, which has its own prison camps set up across America for any coming disturbances. We are indeed disturbed.

And now it seems we are to have an internal secret police, headed not by a law enforcement man but by Tom Ridge, and it is to be a cabinet-level position. This puts it far above the FBI, our non-political professional internal security police, which has been discredited in an intensive campaign by this administration this year.

"The second," FDR continued, "is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way-everywhere in the world."

Do not, Mr. Bush, let your vision of good and evil and your friends on the religious right overpower the religions of mainstream America, which are the religions of peace and justice. Do not take away our second freedom.

"The third," said FDR, "is freedom from want, which, translated into world terms, means economic understanding which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants-everywhere in the world ."

We cannot live peacefully if we do not work everyday for the people, not the despots, of the world-for justice, not for banking arrangements and trade agreements to fatten our already fat banks and corporations. Do not deprive the third world of this third freedom, for none of us are free if some of us are yet enslaved.

"The fourth is freedom," said FDR, "from fear, which translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor-anywhere in the world."


Let the U.S. stop selling the weapons of death throughout the world. We have fallen far, far away from the vision of a peaceful, unarmed world. We are now the principle source of arms and high-tech weapons for all the despots of the world. Mr. Bush, you can only give us freedom from fear if the people of the world are free of fear. This the common American knows in his heart.

"The ultimate weakness of violence," Dr. King taught us, "is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate?.adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out hate, only love can do that," he said.

It is a time for all of us to speak the truth with courage and hope. America is, despite all, still the best hope for the world. But we are a work in progress, and we all have some work to do right now. It is the work of peace, of frank education, of making our lives and our communities more sustainable and less dependent on the suffering of others, and of cleaning up a campaign finance system that has allowed our elected leaders to represent not our interests and values, but those of international corporations who are set on world domination and who have the resources to buy our government away from us if we will let them. We will not, so long as we live, and so long as our four freedoms are our guiding lights and inspiration.

Thank you.

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