

Chronological: Kentucky Jaycees, 50th Anniversary, Louisville Kentucky, 1985-04-20

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
Speeches, Box SP6, Folder 61
<http://hdl.handle.net/10524/63271>

Items in eVols are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

UHM Library Digital Collections Disclaimer and Copyright Information

Came off his desk

RECENTLY, AT A STUDENT SEMINAR IN
WASHINGTON, A YOUNG LADY SAID: "SENATOR, OUR NATION
IS GOING TO HELL." // YES, WE DO HAVE PROBLEMS --
UNEMPLOYMENT, HIGH INTEREST RATES, HIGH COST OF
LIVING, HIGH BUDGET DEFICIT -- BUT WE ALSO HAVE THE
RESOURCES AND ABILITIES TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS. AND
THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, THOUGH WE HAVE AT TIMES BEEN
NAIVE AND SOMETIMES INITIATED TRAGEDY WE HAVE ALWAYS
SHOWN THAT WE HAVE THE WILL TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS.

MY FELLOW AMERICANS: THIS IS MY COUNTRY.

MANY OF US HAVE FOUGHT MANY BLOODY BATTLES FOR THE
RIGHT TO SAY THAT. MANY ARE STRIVING TO ESCAPE THE
AGE-OLD MISERY OF POVERTY, PREJUDICE AND IGNORANCE SO
THAT THEY MAY SAY IT WITH CONVICTION.

WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT AMERICA IS
THE MOST BLESSED OF COUNTRIES. AND EVEN AS WE SINGLE
OUT OUR BLACK PAGES FOR EXAMINATION, WE SHOULD ALWAYS
LOOK AT THE MULTITUDE OF BRIGHT PAGES THAT COMPRISE
THIS NATION'S HISTORY.

*So - on this day, let me
balance the books and tell you about
my America*

YES, THIS IS MY COUNTRY AND IT IS A GOOD
AND GREAT COUNTRY.

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHICH FREELY
GIVES US THE RIGHT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK OUT
AND CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT. THE AUTHOR OF OUR
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, THOMAS JEFFERSON, ONCE
SAID: "THE SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT IS SO
VALUABLE ON CERTAIN OCCASIONS THAT I WISH IT TO BE
ALWAYS KEPT ALIVE. IT WILL OFTEN BE EXERCISED WHEN
WRONG, BUT BETTER SO THAN NOT TO BE EXERCISED AT ALL."

We take regret for granted - 2/3-40

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHICH ALLOWS
US TO ADVOCATE CHANGE -- CHANGE WHICH AT TIMES MAY
APPEAR TO BE RADICAL OR EVEN REVOLUTIONARY.

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHICH DOES NOT
BURN BOOKS, BUT, INSTEAD PERMITS US TO READ ALL BOOKS,

EVEN IF THE PROSE BE UGLY, VILE AND PROFANE.

*- Imagine -
the Soviets ban the reading of Huckleberry Finn.*

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHICH PROVIDES

FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION TO ALL THOSE WITH THE CAPACITY

AND ABILITY TO LEARN — and a land in which,
for the first time in mankind's history,
over one-half of our young people
are going on to higher education.

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND IN WHICH, FOR
THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, OVER ONE-HALF OF OUR YOUNG
PEOPLE ARE GOING ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHICH IS
TRYING NOT TO FORSAKE ITS ELDER CITIZENS AND PROVIDES
THEM WITH MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL CARE IN THEIR AUTUMN
YEARS.

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHICH IS
TRYING ITS BEST TO ERADICATE FROM ITS MIDST, POVERTY
AND HUNGER AND THE AGE-OLD CURSE OF BIGOTRY AND
DISCRIMINATION.

THE PACE MAY BE SLOW -- BUT WE ARE STEPPING
FORWARD TO OUR GOALS.

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHERE THE
PEOPLE ARE FREE TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE THEM
IN THEIR COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT. • *Soviets have elections.*

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHERE EVERY
PERSON, BLACK, WHITE, YELLOW, BROWN AND RED, AND, YES,
EVEN THE CRIMINAL, HAS HIS RIGHTS PROTECTED IN THE
COURTS -- WHERE THE PHRASE "DUE PROCESS OF LAW" IS A
MEANINGFUL AND LIVING PHRASE.

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHERE ONE MAY
PRAY AS HE CHOOSES TO HIS GOD OR GODS, OR NOT WORSHIP
AT ALL.

I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHERE THE
PROMISE OF SUCCESS AND ADVANCEMENT IS REAL. FOR ME
AND FOR A LEGION OF AMERICANS, THIS PROMISE IS REAL.

AND I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN A LAND WHICH HAS
PRODUCED MEN AND WOMEN LIKE THOMAS JEFFERSON, ABRAHAM
LINCOLN, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
HELEN KELLER, JOHN F. KENNEDY, AND MARTIN LUTHER KING.

country - worthy of our support - our sweat & blood.
Yes - my country is a great ^{good and} country.

SO
AND AS WE FACE THE VERY DIFFICULT

CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER
THAT RESILIENCY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF THE AMERICAN
CHARACTER. I BELIEVE IT STILL IS. AMERICANS HAVE
ALWAYS BOUNCED BACK WHEN BESET BY ADVERSITY -- IN
BUSINESS, IN SPACE EXPLORATION, IN ART, IN POLITICS,
AND IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

-9-

IT IS TIME WE COMMIT OUR SKILLS, OUR INTELLIGENCE, OUR
DETERMINATION AND OUR RESILIENCY TO CURING THE ILLS WE
HAVE SPENT THE PAST DOZEN YEARS IN DIAGNOSING. THIS
JOB IS AS MUCH YOURS AS IT IS MINE. WITH CONFIDENCE
BORN AND NURTURED BY KNOWLEDGE AND TRUTH, AND WITH THE
COURAGE OF FREE MEN AND WOMEN, I BELIEVE WE SHALL
PREVAIL.