

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

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers  
Speeches, Box SP6, Folder 61  
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*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 <sup>good and</sup> 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.

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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.