

Address to the Rotarians of Wewoka,  
July 2nd, 1936.

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When the Democratic party requires two negro preachers to seek guidance from the Lord in government matters; when the Republican party has recourse to State's Rights and Personal Liberty and ressurects John Brown's body; when the Socialist party insists upon Social Equality and Social Security and the Communist Party nominates a Harlem negro for vice president of these United States, it is my opinion that that somebody has been monkeying with the Paint bucket and marring up the color scheme and that soon we will have another stripe in the Star Spangled banner- a black stripe.

In this day and time when Relievers are taking vacations in Europe and bankrupts are driving to a meeting of the creditors and enviting the taxi driver in to sit as a creditor and when taxpayers are kicking but squandering millions on foreign lotteries because they think there is a POSSIBILITY of getting some return it is our opinion that we should raise the wages of our congressmen and senators to a very high level and maybe they will quit RAISING TAXES. Repeal of the Eighteenth amendment is working a hardship on the taxpayer, he might have been able to WEAR THE BARRELS if they hadent got back into use. The times is like a tuberculor patient; we get a Breathing Speal just before we begin caughing up for taxes. Times HAVE changed the taxpayer is wearing the baggy clothes these days instead of the politician. With all the Absent Minded professors directing the government we may expect some old age pensions to be paid from the repayments of certain war debts owed by friendly neighbors across the pond. The workers on the Malaria district ditch just west of town apparently dig about the fourth of the time, what a job it would be if they dug as consistently as the taxpayer has to. With this dry weather on us it is our advice that the old parties, instead of throwing mud at each other just throw tax receipts, there are so many more of them.

Address to Rotarians  
Wewoka, Oklahoma July 2nd, 1936

Almost one hundred and sixty years ago this Republic was born in spirit by the Declaration of Independence. After the struggle for freedom, the Founding Fathers of the nation framed the constitution, the Charter of the Republic, under which the Republic of the West has made such wonderful progress. Ours, today, is the oldest government on the face of the earth.

Civilization is but a restraint upon the natural desires and propensities- a restraint by reason. There are two compelling influences toward higher civilization: government and religion. It is meet and proper that we discuss government at this time because day after tomorrow will be the anniversary of our freedom.

Government and religion are very similiar in this one great respect: if founded upon truth and reason in the beginning the lapse of time and changing conditions cannot take from or add to its forcefulness. Men and men's thoughts may change, but the principles of both religion and government remain as true today as when they were first propounded. Religion is being attacked by the new thought of the times, for when we hear a member of the younger generation saying in a prepared address to the National Convention of Educators at <sup>Portland, Ore</sup> ~~Seattle, Wash~~, that "we want a God that we can take to the picture show with us, not one house<sup>ed</sup> within the four walls of a church-- we want a God that we can respect and understand" we can but realize that the old order is under attack.

Our government was not founded in a haphazard manner, it was founded out of the living experience of able and consciencious men. History is the experience of nations and peoples. The Founding Fathers of our nation not only had before them the

experience of nations but they had their own experience to draw upon while under a government that deprived them of liberties and freedom which they sought to install in the new government they were founding. Into that government they incorporated the preventive measures and provisions their experience had taught them to avoid in government. It was not guess work, this government of ours, it was well thought out and deliberately planned to avoid the things they had suffered and put up with under a despotic and dictatorial government. They knew what they wanted and what their people needed to protect them from the despotism of government.

They formed a government of checks and balances upon power of government. They knew what stole away men's liberties, they knew it was government. This they thought, and if adhered to will be prevented. They left nothing to chance, but while the atrocities of their former subjugation was still in their minds, they wrote into the fundamental law of this nation provisions that will forever prevent our government from making slaves of its people. They wrote a government FOR the people as distinguished from one for the government. They left the people supreme in power rather than entrust that power to the whims of the government. They prepared that government so that it would be administered by the PEOPLE through their representatives, those representatives to be quickly responsive to the will of the people. May we hope and pray that it ever remains so.

They knew the extent to which an executive would go in usurping power, despotic power. They knew to what extent the legislative branch would go in assuming arrogant power; so they wrote into the charter of this land checks upon the power of each and

placed the reins of government in the hands of the people. To the Executive they gave the power of enforcing the laws and gave the right of veto upon legislation. Into the hands of the legislature they gave the power to pass laws and regulations, restricted only by the provisions of the Constitution and the veto of the executive. But they placed another check within the legislative branch itself, for they provided for two houses, one of which was to be the people's house, every member of which was to be elected each two years so as to be quickly responsive to the will of the people. The other <sup>they</sup> made the representatives of the several states, to be elected by the legislatures of the various states. A complete check within itself, if the PEOPLE remained vigilant and watchful. But they knew the people were apt to grow unconcerned and indifferent. They knew it had been the disposition of all peoples who had lived upon the face of this globe to grow indifferent and careless and in doing so to allow their governments to get into the hands of the few, an ambitious few. They sought to prevent this tragedy by providing for a third branch of government. This provision was an innovation in governments, up to that time. They provided for a judiciary. This branch of the government had no power, except that of advice. The executive was to be the commander in chief of the army and the navy; in him was placed the great power to enforce the measures provided by the legislature; with him was reposed the power of FORCE in our government. The court was provided to advise the Executive and the Legislature, when the measures and laws enacted were not WITHIN the scope of their power under the CONSTITUTION which they had prepared. Here we find three complete checks upon POWER in our government. This the Founding Fathers thought to be sufficient, even with the people growing indifferent

and unconcerned. They endeavored to fix it so that the government itself, in one or the other branches provided for, would arrest the ultimate scramble toward dictatorial power. ALL of those provisions were for the benefit of the people. They never assumed that the people would become so careless of their liberties that when apprised of the usurpation of power by either of the three branches, or two of the three branches, they would not rise up and evict the usurpers from their places of trust. The times are disturbing, they are alarming. Thoughtful people are prone to wonder if the people can be aroused to what a loss they would sustain if the liberty and freedom, the rights and privileges reserved to them by a benevolent government, were taken away from them. They have so complacently enjoyed those liberties as citizens of this nation that they are unable to imagine or believe they could or would ever be deprived of them. Yet other nations are taking away the last vestage of liberty and freedom and self respect of their people. Should we not be more thoughtful about the matter? Should we not be more concerned and less indifferent? Today the United States Government belongs to the PEOPLE of this nation bequeathed to them by the CONSTITUTION. It is unthinkable that the people will relinquish that inheritance.

What would the patriots of 1776 who were willing to sacrifice their lives for liberty from a despotic government have thought if the government they had erected in a time when a surplus of crops were raised had ordered the citizens of THAT time to "plow them under" and let the consumer pay the bill. What would they have thought if there had been a period of unemployment, if the government had of said to business " That is a simple matter, just employ more men, shorten their hours, pay them more wages The government will plan your business, their will be no economic

freedom for the people" and placed a big, doubled fist ed army man in charge to boycott and scare, and with a few little fellows who were helpless against the assumed power of government in jail? Honor bright, what would those who fought for the liberty of this country thought about that? Wouldent they wonder why they faught a war to get out from under the control of John Bull?

What if the government of those early days had said to its citizenship " this government will fix the prices and your profits, will fix the hours for you to open and close, require you to sign a contract to live according to the dictates of the government" what would have been the result? In their frame of mind and in their understanding of the despotism of government there would have been another war.

What if the government of those early days, during the lives of those who had faught a war for freedom, had repudiated its contract and refused to pay its honest bills in gold when it had promised to do so in writing and ordered its citizenship to deliver up to the government the citizen's property-his gold? How long do you suppose those old fellows would have allowed that administration to last?

What if the government of those early days had so far avoided the constitutional provisions of the government as to tell the farmers of the land how much wheat they were to grow, how much corn and cotton, and not more than FIVE BUSHELS of potatoes? But our present day citizenship is so indifferent and unconcerned that they allow themselves to be purchased into slavery. For a few pauntry dollars they sell to their government their liberty and freedom, forgetting that tomorrow may enforce the regulation without the trouble of paying for it. OUR FOREFATHERS would have understood what all that meant, they understood ABOUT LIBERTY.

Do we today know what LIBERTY is? Do we understand what it means to us under the CONSTITUTION of the United States? Do we understand that it solely and alone that CONSTITUTION and fundamental law to gives to us the right of free press, a free speech, the right to assemble in public places and discuss government and petition for relief; the right to worship our God as we may see fit, uninterrupted by government; the right to have our homes free from the search and the seizure of every little governmental officer that comes around; the right to OWN PROPERTY, free from the demands of government in any way, except for taxes, and that no government can take it away from us without paying us for it; the right to the writ of habeas corpus, free from cost of any kind, so that some agency of the government may enquire as to why we are held in prison; the right to freely contract with each other as to property, employment and other business matters; the right to have those contracts unimpaired; the freedom from ex post facto laws; the right to have our homes free from the intrusion of soldiers, except in times of war and then to be paid for the intrusion by the government. THE RIGHT TO HAVE ALL POWERS NOT SPECIALLY DELEGATED TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT reserved in the people and the SEVERAL STATES, which is the local self government of the people. These are just a few of the liberties which you enjoy that are not enjoyed under any other government of this world. The Constitution is a COMPACT between you and YOUR government, states provides just how far that government shall go in dealing without your personal liberty and freedom. Do you want to keep that compact in force for your preservation and your children's protection? If you do, then be ever watchful and careful to preserve it. You can as effectively surrender it by indifference as you can by an affirmative vote. Dont go to sleep.

Every time you have amended that constitution during the twentieth century a mistake has been made, some rights have been surrendered. The biggest mistake made was the sixteenth amendment; there you surrendered the right to the central government to levy a direct tax upon yourselves. The Founding Fathers had thoughtfully withheld that right from the central government. You, through your representatives, surrendered it. You can figure out the harm that was done for yourselves.

Every power necessary to government is lodged in either your state government or your federal government EXCEPT those powers that might interfere with your personal rights; those powers the constitution reserved to the people. Keep them; you may not realize what they mean to you but those old men who battled the government of England understood and you and your children will, too, if you lose them. REMEMBER, THAT WHENEVER CONGRESS DEMANDS MORE POWER FOR ITSELF, YOU, THE PEOPLE, MUST SURRENDER THAT POWER. If you are willing to do so, the best way to do it is by allowing your constitution to be amended.

If I had my way every school child of this nation would have so thoroughly instilled in its mind and memory the history of this nation and this government that when the name of the State of Massachusetts is mentioned its mind would immediately fly to old Samuel Adams and the other patriots of that commonwealth, and to Bunker Hill and the Commons, where men gave up their lives that we may to day enjoy the peace of a free government. That when Virginia is mentioned their memories would immediately go to Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence; the surrender of Cornwallis that made it sure that liberty would prevail; to the fight for religious liberty and of the Bill of Rights;

that when Pennsylvania is mentioned their minds would immediately go to the attered soldiers, with bare feet, leaving blood stains upon the snows at Valley Forge, that you and I and our children might enjoy liberty and freedom under a free government; and that when Illinois is mentioned their minds would think of Lincoln's Gettyberg speech where he said" Ours is a government of the people, for the people and by the people".

And then, my friends, I would have them sufficiently versed in the affirs of the world that When Italy,Germany,Russia or Turkey were mentioned they would think of people who are slaves to their government. When Russia is mentioned I would have them know that under communism no person is allowed to own property, not even the riggs upon their fingers or the glasses upon their eyes; a country where men cannot eat a meal, either in their homes or public places, without having a ticket from the government giving them the right to eat that meal; a country where the churches are used to heep ridicule and infamy upon the name of God and where children are taken away from their parents and housed in government institutions and there taught to dispise their God: I would have them know that in that land when men make a slight mistake in a government factor or speak up against the despotism of their government their are "liquidated" which means,starved to death; a land where ten million of farmers were liquidated because they would not collectize their farms. That they dont simply tell them there they cannot raise more than five bushels of potatoes, but that whatever and all of that which they raise belong to the state and they will be allowed that which the state feels like giving. And when those children understand those things they will again be rechristened into the principles of a free government.

Under such a government as our fathers prepared for us we have been afforded such freedom of action and thought as to remove us a very great measure from the envies and bickerings that influence the peoples of the other places of the world. Because of that freedom of thought and action we have become a peace-loving nation-- not because we are careless or thoughtless, but because we are thoughtful and reasonable. We live at peace with our neighbors on the North and South. No unsightly, costly and irritating fortifications mar the borderland between Canada and the United States; no forts or fortifications can be found along the borderland between this country and Mexico. We live at peace, we respect our neighbors; they respect us. While there may not be a maximum of love and affection between the two, yet there is respect, and that appeals higher than love, because there can be no love with respect.

b We have enjoyed our liberties so thoroughly under our republican form of government that we do not envy our neighbors whatever advantages they may possess. Can you think of this condition ever arising under a dictatorship, under a despotism? There men's every day life is harassed by an encroachment upon their sensibilities. They are continually aggravated and fretted by the petty overreachings of government. Disturbed in mind, they are easily aroused to rage against their neighbors. The result is war. Let us avoid this unenviable situation by clinging to our present form of government which insures to us a personal initiative and resource that makes for a higher and better, more thoughtful citizenship.