President Kennedy’s Last Speech to AFL-CIO

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Waren Scores Fanatics

Chief Justice Earl Warren, in an unprecedented eulogy in the great rotunda of the Capitol, spoke out against the forces of hatred in the United States, as he stood with the lead- ers of the Nation at the bier of the late John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States.

Warren, former District Attorney of Alameda County, Attorney General and Gover- nor of California, and now Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, is a life-long Repub- lican.

He has long been the target of the John Birch Society and other extremist elements who have called for his impeachment. Both Presidents he

A BASE FOR PROGRESS

Those 20 years, 1919 to 1938, those years from 1945 through 1962, tell the story of the progress which Franklin Roosevelt made in the 30’s and on which we now live and benefit in the 1960’s. It is no accident. It is no accident that this country stagnated so long after the 1929 depression. It did not happen on its own, but...merely happen that this country has steadily increased in wealth and strength in the years from 1945 on. It is because of the steps that were taken in the 30’s, the great progress...in the 40’s and 50’s that make it possible for us to make the great progress that we are making in the 60’s to do those things in the Congress of the United States and in the various States which will make it possible for others in the 1970’s and 1980’s also to do in prosperity.

D R Y SENSE OF HUMOR

Three years ago, and one week, by a landslide, the people of the United States elected me to the Presidency of this country, and it is possible that you had something to do with that majority of 122,000 votes, and I think it, therefore, appropriate to say thank you, and that...even more appropriate to say something about what we must do.

PROGRESS IN CIVIL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Here in the United States we have encouraged the peaceful desegregation of schools in 238 districts; theaters in 144 cities, restaurants in 129 cities, and lunch counters in 100 cities, while at the same time taking executive action to open doors to our citizens in transportation terminals and polling places, and public and private employment. And...by extending the benefits of nearly 3 million jobless workers.

By doing these things, and others, we have attempted to work for the benefit of our people, and I can assure you that if we can...and I see no good reason why we should not—if we can obtain the present passage of the pending $11 billion tax reduc- tion bill, we shall be sailing by next April on the winds of the longest and strongest peacetime expansion in the history of the United States.

Our national output three years ago was $500 billion. In January, three years later, it will be $600 billion, a record rise of $100 billion in 36 months. For it first time in history we have 70 million men and women at work. For the first time in history factory earn...have attended to the unemployment problem will be 8 percent. In short, we have made progress, but all of us know that more progress must be made. That is what we are here about. I am here today to talk about the right to work, the right to have a job in this country in a time of prosperity in the United States. That is the real right to work issue in 1963. In spite of this progress, this country must move so fast to even stand still.

SNOWBALLING ECONOMY

Productivity goes up so fast. The number of people coming into the labor market so increases. Ten million more jobs are needed in the next two and a half years. Even with the TG...in the 18 months has meant that the United States has grown faster economically than France and Germany, than any country in Europe but two, even with this extraordinary economic progress in the last 18 months we still have an unemployment rate of more than 100 million people more at work. In fact, if the economy during the last 2 years had grown at the same rate that we have been growing, we would have 70 million men and women at work. For the first time in history factory earnings have exceeded $100 a week, and even $100 billion in 36 months. For the first time in history we have 70 million men and women at work. For the first time in history factory earnings have exceeded $100 a week, and even $100 billion in 36 months. For the first time in history we have 70 million men and women at work. For the first time in history factory earnings have exceeded $100 a week, and even $100 billion in 36 months. For the first time in history we have 70 million men and women at work. For the first time in history factory earnings have exceeded $100 a week, and even

V E N O M S P R E A D I N T O W E A K M I N D S

“it is too much to hope that the martydom of our beloved President m...even soften the hearts of those who would themselves record these facts, but who do not shrink from spreading the venom which kindles thoughts of it in others”

Warren was flanked by Mrs. Kennedy, the President’s daugh- ter Caroline, as he stood on a crimson cloth at the feet of the af...had formed an atrocity at the fanatics who urge vio- lence and nurture hatred against our President, most of whom are sharing a feeling of deep guilt at what happened in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963.

EXTREMISTS DENOUNCED

The Chief Justice, now white-hatted but ever bearing his sword, electrified the audience, as he said: “What a price we pay for this fanaticism! If we really love this country, if we truly believe in the American way of life, if we fervently want to make this country great for all of us, and I trust we all follow you, we can at least...the hatred that consum...people, the false accusations that divide us and the bitterness that begets vi- olence.

HATRED STIMULATES SUCH ACTS

“We are saddened; we are shocked; we are grieved,” he said. “What moved some misguided wrench to do this heinous deed may never be known to us. But we do know that this country is commonly stimulated by forces of hatred and male- volence, such as the John Birch Society, eating their way into the bloodstream of American life.”

“It has been said that the only thing we learn from history is that we do not learn. But surely we can learn if we have the will to learn. So I ask you to pledge to learn to learn from this tragic...
The Staff Extends
socialism and deficits and all the rest, should look at that figure. Five million people voted for you and look it is from last summer's statistics, three times that many have experienced some unemployment. And that hanging over the labor market makes it more difficult for those of you who speak for labor at the bargaining table to speak with force. When there are so many people out of work, the whole collective bargaining process, what I think that this issue of economic security, of jobs, is the basic issue facing the United States in 1963, and I wish we could get back to it. A quarter of the people we are talking about are out of work 15 weeks or longer and their families feel it.

The year of prosperity, of record prosperity, 1964 was a year of recession. Yet our unemployment rate is as high today as it was in 1964. Last year's loss of man hours in those three months was staggering. One billion work days lost, equivalent to shutting down the entire country for three weeks with no pay. That is an intolerable waste for this rich country of ours. That is why I say that economic security is the number one issue today. It is not so recognized in Congress as in the White House. Jobs are not enough, and higher earnings and greater growth will, out of that bill, find new jobs. But tax cuts are not enough to pay for those who have talent to go to college. But only if those with the right to own a good home and to sleep in a good health department, to have no fear of his unemployment. And that hanging over the labor market makes it more difficult for those of you who speak for labor at the bargaining table to speak with force. When there are so many people out of work, the whole collective bargaining process, what I think that this issue of economic security, of jobs, is the basic issue facing the United States in 1963, and I wish we could get back to it. A quarter of the people we are talking about are out of work 15 weeks or longer and their families feel it.

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