TODAY OF THE ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR THOMAS E. DICKY, OFFICIALLY OPENING HIS CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, DELIVERED AT GRAND STADIUM, DES MOINES, IOWA. MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 20, 1948, AND BROADCAST OVER THE NATIONAL RED NETWORKS OF THE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM AND THE MUTUAL BROADCASTING COMPANY FROM 8:45 P.M. CST.

THE CHALLENGE OF TOMORROW

Tonight we enter upon a campaign to unite America. On January 20, we will enter upon a new era. We propose to install in Washington an administration which has faith in the American people, a warm understanding of their needs and the competence to meet them. We will rediscover the essential unity of our people and the spiritual strength which makes our country great. We will begin to move forward against substantial shoulder toward an even greater America and a better life for every American, in a nation working effectively for the peace of the world.

This is my pledge to my fellow-citizens, the declaration of the principles and purposes of your next administration:

I pledge to you that as President, every act of mine will be determined by one principle above all others: Is this good for our country?

I pledge to you that my Administration will be made up of men and women devoted to that same principle -- of men and women whose love of their country comes ahead of every other consideration. They will know how to translate their devotion to our country into constructive action.

I pledge to you a foreign policy based upon the firm belief that we can have peace. That policy will be made effective by men and women who really understand the nature of the threat to peace and who have the vigor, the knowledge and the experience required to wage peace successfully.

I pledge to you a government of teamwork. The executive heads of your government will be really qualified for their positions and they will be given full responsibility to do their job without loose talk, factional quarreling or appeals to group prejudice. They will know how to work together as a team and one of the most important members of that team will be the distinguished Governor of California, the next Vice President of the United States, Earl Warren.

I pledge to you an administration which will know how to work with the elected representatives of the people in Congress, an administration that wants to work with them and will do so. The unity we need for the Nation will be practiced in the Nation's Capitol.

I pledge to you that on next January 20 there will begin in Washington the biggest unravelling, unscrambling, untying operation in our Nation's history.

I pledge to you an administration which knows in its mind and believes in its heart that every American is dependent upon every other American; that no segment of our people can prosper without the prosperity of all; that in truth we must all go forward together.
This is what you may expect from your next, your Republican Administration. It will be an administration in which every member is enlisted to advance the well-being of all our people and is dedicated to the release of the unthriftiness, energy, the enterprise of all people; an administration which has faith in America and is resolved to prove its faith by its works.

This is the road on which I propose that we set out together. As we advance we will carry America's destiny with us. We will also carry the hope of freedom and the living promise to a stricken world that men can be free and that free men can live in peace.

We are living in surely troubled times. The unhappy difficulties of today are familiar to every one of us. Three years after the end of the war the world has still not found peace. As we wage the peace, we face problems as momentous as any which have ever confronted any nation in history in peace or war.

Our sons and daughters -- the young people in our grade schools, our high schools and colleges have lived their whole lives in a troubled world. Their plans for education, for getting married -- for getting ahead, are delayed and disrupted.

The housewife who has been cut shopping today to buy meat for her family and clothes for her children has been up against the hard fact of high prices. Every married veteran living in a crowded hut or doubled up with his family is up against the cruel fact that we do not have enough good homes for our people. Every family living in a crowded insanitary, cold-water tenement has the same urgent needs. Hard-working, frugal Americans find they do not make enough to lay anything by for a rainy day or sickness or unemployment or old age.

Millions of Americans, too, face the intolerable fact that because of their race or their color or the way they choose to worship God, they are denied rights which are their birthright and which, by American principle and law, are their just due.

These are some of the difficulties that confront us. It will not be easy to meet them, and I want no one to think that I believe it will be easy. These times require the cooperation of every one of us and the highest order of devotion and intense labor by your Government. But it is part of my faith in America to believe that with restoration of faith in ourselves, of competence in our government, of unity of purpose among us there is nothing as a people we cannot do.

I deeply believe that an administration which can unite our people will have taken the greatest single step toward solving these problems. This is our most urgent need.

Every four years under our Constitution it is our right as Americans to hear a full and thoughtful discussion of the issues before us. As this campaign progresses I shall place before you my views concerning every aspect of the grave problems at home and abroad and the steps by which I propose that we meet them.

(MORE)
I will not contend that all our difficulties today have been brought about by the present national administration. Some of these unhappy conditions are the result of circumstances beyond the control of any government. Any fair minded person would agree that others are merely the result of the administration’s lack of judgment, or of faith in our people. Only part are deliberately caused for political purposes. It is not too important how these conditions came about. The important thing is that as Americans we turn our faces forward and set about curing them with stout purpose and a full heart. We can enlarge the opportunities of all our people and move toward peace with all the world.

And to all those in this country or abroad who hate freedom as well as to all our friends everywhere who love freedom and look to us for aid and leadership let me make this very clear: As far as I am concerned -- so far as the Republican Party is concerned, this campaign will not create divisions among our people. Instead, it will unite us as we have never been united before to build our nation so strongly that no force will again attack us and to labor unceasingly to find common grounds of fire and peaceful agreement with all nations.

As we chart our course for the years ahead, we must find the stars by which to sail. We must look to the fundamentals of our country. These are the path that will lead us to the vanguard of the living world. Our America is not the lucky product of a rich continent discovered by a self-satisfied adventurer looking for a pot of gold. The roots of our country are not material. They are moral and spiritual. Of course we are deeply concerned about things to live with. But we are also concerned about the values by which we live. Ide and I know that we can surmount our unhappy times by a restoration of our ideals and faith in our country.

We know that because we are Americans. It is no accident that our country stands like a beacon of hope to all the world. Our magnificent America is the end result of the deep convictions of a great people devoted above everything else to faith in their God and the liberty and precious importance of every human being.

We believe in freedom for our neighbors across the street or across the seas -- the same freedom we expect for ourselves. We believe honesty, loyalty, fair play, concern for our neighbors, the innate ability of men to achieve these convictions, earned over by our faith in God, are the inner meaning of the American way of life. That is why the eyes of freedom loving people everywhere are turned with hope to us. That is our America for which we cannot and will not fall.

But we are in a world and in a time when these convictions are dangled and mocked at and denied. The priceless rights of freedom of speech, of assembly, of religion, of the press, academic freedom, the fundamental freedom of choice of occupation, even of the right to own a car or a home or a farm -- all these are denied to millions of regimented people throughout the world. The ideals and the rights we hold to be good are held to be evil in these countries. No other fact about our world is of such ominous importance.

We live in a world in which tyranny is on the march. The evil idea is on the march that man is not destined to be free but to be enslaved. That idea is backed by a mobilization of enormous force. Millions of families who have known freedom are in fear of once familiar footsteps and at every moment they expect the knock on the door. Millions who still enjoy freedom live in fear
that today or tomorrow some crisis or excuse will be seized upon to blot out their freedom.

Millions of human beings, it may be tens of millions -- no one knows -- are being starved and worked to death in concentration camps and in slave labor. And yet, at this very moment, the nation of America and the truth of what America believes are being vindicated. The oppressed peoples of these lands know there is a better life. They know there is a better way.

The truth about America seeps through every obstacle of iron and steel. In millions of hearts the hope that America is feeling. That is why we in America have such a solemn obligation to love and cherish all of the freedoms we enjoy. We are the last, best hope of earth. Neither barbed wire nor bayonet have been able to suppress the will of men and women to cross from tyranny to freedom.

Let us call up some of them as witnesses. Let them testify.

Call up Jan Masaryk, of Czechoslovakia, the hero son of a hero father. We may never know whether he took his life or was murdered. We do know this, that however it came, he preferred death to a life cut off from freedom. Jan Masaryk is our witness.

Call up Archbishop Stepinac who lies today in a Communist prison, a living martyr to the cause of freedom of religion. Call up Nicola Poteziv, the executed leader of the Free forces of Bulgaria. Call up General Ben-Karamazewski and Stanislav Mikolajczyk the great exiled leaders of Poland who gladly brushed along with death to escape from tyranny. All these are our witnesses.

Call up the athletes who came out from behind the iron curtain to compete in the Olympics only last month and refused to return. Call up Dr. Denis Dandak, the Russian school teacher. She was picked by the secret police to come to our country to teach the children of Soviet diplomats. She could not even understand the language of America but in her heart she came to understand America. When she jumped to death or freedom from the windows of her diplomatic prison, she gave her testimony. That was the day -- the very same tragic day -- at this very moment we were told that the exposure of Communism in our own government is a "red herring".

With mankind as our witness this is no time for doubting the righteousness of free government. This is the time -- above all times -- for a great American reaffirmation. Our faith reaffirmed holds our destiny and the hope of the world.

As we look around us we can count our blessings and be humbly proud and happy we are Americans.

Our fathers came from an old world in which few men knew the meaning of liberty. Yet they came to found a nation and stake its future on their belief in what men could do if only they were free. The America of today is the living, towering symbol of the eternal rightness of that faith.

We have sometimes failed in our faith and often fallen short of it. But in our hearts we believe and hope that every man has some of the Divine in him, that every single individual is of prime importance and that few men against whatever odds have an unbeatable quality. That faith is our faith. It is the faith of our people. It is the faith in which we will go forward.
Des Moines speech

Never let anyone tell you that America’s unfinished job is too big. Never let anyone tell you that we can meet our problems only by surrendering to the methods of the police state. The free system is the only system on earth which can make a mistake and cure it. It is the only one where opportunity always exists to improve. It is the only system whose men can freely change their governments by peaceful means. This land of ours almost alone in all the world, is still the place where youth -- where every young man and every young woman -- is free to plan for the future and make their dreams come true.

As a nation we are troubled today by many things and we must remove many fears. We are troubled by high prices and we must and the maladjustments which cause them. We need more homes for our people. We must widen the opportunities for our youth. We must increase the security of our older people. We must protect our enterprise system from monopoly while encouraging free and fuller production for the benefit of all our citizens. We must and we will maintain support prices so our farmers can go ahead confidently with full production of the food our growing nation needs. We must and we will preserve the gains of labor so that its confidence and production will grow and flourish. We must work against intolerance and bigotry, against racial and religious discrimination, above all we must confidently face the immense labor of making peace in this world and act wisely and with courage to achieve it.

As I make specific proposals dealing with these problems of ours in the course of this campaign, they will not be the product of wishful thinking. I have no trick answers and no easy solutions. I will not offer the solution to one group and another solution to another group.

The American people have a right to expect honest answers and I propose to give them. The specific proposals I will make will not be borne of fear. They will come from my own deep faith in America. They will not set faction against faction, group against group. They will aim to join us together in a more perfect union.

As we go on from here together, we will know that our advance is carrying us into unexplored territory -- on into the atomic age. Man may, at last, begin to tap the powers of the universe. We can do much to see that this new age is not one of catastrophe, but one of unimagined peace and achievement. That is our purpose. That is the measure of our opportunities. For such a future let us summon new vision, new courage and a new vision. Let us say, as one people we welcome the challenge of tomorrow.

Let us go forward into this future as courageous, united, Americans bound together by an invincible faith that liberty with justice under God is the most precious thing on earth.


************