The Road to Democracy

address by
WILLIAM E. STEVENS
President, Chester College
before
The Annual Dinner, St. Louis Urban League
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Additional copies of this address may be obtained from the Urban League of St. Louis
3017 Delmar Boulevard, St. Louis 63108.
The Road to Democracy

It is a tribute to the Urban League, that this distinguished and representative group of people is meeting here tonight. Regrettably, this is not the first such occasion, and numerous similar gatherings, many under the auspices of the Urban League, have been held in St. Louis and elsewhere during the past few years.

This meeting is, of course, a pleasant and relaxing occasion but, in my opinion, it has far greater significance than that. For, if it brings together people as engaged in the new Negro community as we are engaged in the Urban League, and as interested in the democratic process, it is a step toward democracy, as I believe, toward the realization of the dream of everyone, regardless of race, color, social status, and creed, who has been engaged in this work. In the words of the great Martin Luther King, Jr., who I am sure all of us have heard of, I do not think there is a better job than that.

Meanwhile for our work, I will continue to strive for closer understanding between races and minority groups, and to work for the advancement of the Negro race. Through the efforts of the Urban League, we have had an opportunity to become well acquainted with Negroes who were not Negroes in the past. We have had the opportunity to work with Negroes who have been excluded from membership in our organizations because of their race. We have had the opportunity to work with Negroes who have been denied the right to vote because of their race. We have had the opportunity to work with Negroes who have been denied an education because of their race.

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Mr. Steverson, President of Oberlin College, has had a distinguished career as a scholar, a teacher, and an administrator. He is a graduate of Princeton University, a former Rhodes scholar, and was a member of the U.S. Olympic team. During World War II, he directed the American Red Cross program in England. Later he went to the invasion forces to North Africa where he set up Red Cross programs there. He is currently a member of President Truman's Committee on Employment of Veterans and Opportunity in the Armed Services.
I am very happy that this present work on several interesting topics is in the George Washington University, where I have been for two years. The faculty is excellent, the facilities are good, and the atmosphere is friendly and helpful.

However, I have had some difficulties in my studies. The workload is heavy, and the expectations are high. I have to balance my academic responsibilities with my personal life, which can be challenging at times.

In conclusion, I am grateful for the opportunity to pursue my studies at George Washington University. I believe that I will be able to overcome the challenges I face and emerge as a well-rounded individual who is prepared to contribute to society.
I do not feel that it is unsafe, in cultivating the situation in speech and in action, that the public is a force in the world, for we cannot demand that any nation or group of nations shall be the only one to control the destinies of the world. It is not the place of any nation to control the destinies of any individual or group of individuals. It is the place of every nation to contribute its best to the solution of the problem of international relations, and to work for the establishment of a world community in which all nations shall be equal and shall have the right to determine their own destinies. 

I believe that the United States is a nation that is capable of contributing its best to the solution of the problem of international relations. It is a nation that has a long history of freedom and democracy, and it is a nation that has a long history of contributions to the world. It is a nation that has a long history of leadership in the solution of international problems, and it is a nation that has a long history of contributions to the world. It is a nation that has a long history of contributions to the world, and it is a nation that is capable of contributing its best to the solution of the problem of international relations.

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