The Road to Democracy

address by

WILLIAM E. STEVENSON
President, Chester College

before

The Annual Dinner, St. Louis Urban League

January 23, 1930
Mr. Stevens, President of Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, has had a distinguished career as a scholar, teacher, lawyer, Red Cross administrator, and 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 with the invasion forces to North Africa where he set up Red Cross programs there and in Sicily and Italy. At the close of the war, Mr. Stevens returned to his law practice until 1946, at which time he was called to the presidency of Oberlin College. He is active in many local, regional and national organizations, and is currently a member of President Truman’s Committee on National Service and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

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

This meeting is, of course, a pleasant and unique occasion, but, in my opinion, it has far greater significance than this. For it marks the height of an era. The end of an era. The end of the era of the American Red Cross. Then the era of charity. The era of voluntary service. The era when we were able, as a nation, to face our problems with confidence and with an optimism that was not always justified. The era of the American Red Cross. Then the era of charity. The era of voluntary service. The era when we were able, as a nation, to face our problems with confidence and with an optimism that was not always justified.

Today, however, the world is different. The problems that we face today are far more complex and far more difficult than those we faced in the past. We are confronted with new challenges and new opportunities. We must be prepared to meet these challenges and seize these opportunities.

We must be prepared to meet the challenges of the future with the same determination and the same courage that we have shown in the past. We must be prepared to seize the opportunities that are presented to us so that we can build a better world for ourselves and for future generations.

Let us remember that the American Red Cross has played a vital role in our country’s history. It has served as a symbol of compassion and service, and it has helped to shape our nation’s values.

Today, as we stand at the threshold of a new century, we must continue to build upon the legacy of the American Red Cross. We must continue to work together to ensure that our country remains a land of opportunity and freedom.

Thank you for your attention.
I am very happy that my presence here in the United States has been of so great importance to the future of our country. I believe that it is due to the contributions of the Negro that the United States is able to enjoy the freedom and independence that we have today. I am sure that my presence here will continue to be of great importance to the future of our country.

In the past, our presence in America has been marked by discrimination and prejudice. This has led to a great deal of suffering and hardship for the Negro people. However, I believe that with time and effort we can overcome this problem. I believe that the United States is capable of overcoming this problem.

In recent years, there have been many changes in the way that the United States treats its citizens. There has been a great deal of progress in the fight against discrimination. I believe that the United States is capable of continuing this progress.

I believe that the United States is capable of overcoming this problem. I believe that with time and effort we can overcome this problem. I believe that the United States is capable of continuing this progress.

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I do not feel that it is certain, that the situation is one that requires the
problems to which we have been talking today to be
in any way different from the situation as a whole in the
world, for in the world we are
are not secure our democracy.

I am not sure that it is certain
that our democracy really works, we are not able to change the
majoritarian attitude which now
prevails in the world, while
certainly in some countries,
looking for change, but
change in the world will be achieved
only by the leadership
towards that goal.

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