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Notes for Address at Commencement Ceremonies, delivered at Northview High School on June 4, 1975

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NOTES FOR ADDRESS AT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

OF NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL (Grand Rapids)

held on June 4, 1975, at 8 p.m., at Civic Center

(Arend D. Lubbers)

Roots of Patriotism

1) Refueled by immigrants like my grandmother - fewer immigrants

2) J Expansion, growth, opportunities, frontier
   expectation of power and development (now developed)
   childhood expectation of adulthood

3) 2nd world war - fighting such blatant militant evil - almost insanity
   Old movies - we good, they bad; too simple for educated society today
   Communication media shows us where we are not always so good.

4) J Holidays had a different cast - fueled patriotic fervor. Country was new;
   people know what a unique experiment our American Revolution set
   in motion; closer to its beginnings. Parades, speeches, food & games;
   now most os play games and eat; time used for relaxation.

Conditions --

1) business - high consumption, cars

2) educators who nit-pick; more pleasure in politics than teaching people

3) some unions that become so self-seeking and competitive they find it
   impossible to do anything in the public interest.

4) a news media that plays up man's most destructive acts

5) welfare system that encourages a breed of non-workers

6) business that creates wealth

FILE: 910.1
For it is often easier to fight for principles than to live up to them.

Speech in New York City. Aug. 27, 1952
ADLAI Stevenson

"When an American says that he loves his country, he means not only that he love the New England hills, the prairies glistening in the sun, the wide and rising plains, the great mountains, and the sea. He means that he loves an inner air, an inner light in which freedom lives and in which a man can draw the breath of self-respect."

Speech in New York City. Aug. 27, 1952
Adlai Stevenson

"These are times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now; deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered, yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. That we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; 'tis dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated."

American Crisis. no. 1. Dec. 23 1776
Thomas Paine
Quotations on Patriotism

"The stern hand of fate has scourged us to an elevation
where we can see the great everlasting things that
matter for a nation; the great peaks of honour we
had forgotten - duty and patriotism clad in glittering
white; the great pinnacle of sacrifice pointing like
a rugged finger to Heaven."

Speech; Queen's Hall, London, 19 Sept. 1914

David Lloyd George, Earl of Dwyfor

"I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have
no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

Last Words, 12 Oct. 1915

Edith Cavell

"Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel"

vol.ii, p.247. 7 May 1772

Sam Johnson

"Ancient sculpture is the true school of modesty.
But where the Greeks had modesty, we have can't;
where they had poetry, we have can't; where they had
patriotism, we have can't; where they had anything that
exalts, delights, or adorns humanity, we have nothing
but can't, can't, can't.

Crochet Castle, Chapter 7

Thomas Love Peacock

"Never was patriot yet, but was a fool"

Abraham and Achitophel, Pt.1

John Dryden
"The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country."

The American Crisis, No. 1. (1776), p. 17

Pennsylvania Journal, 19 Dec. 1785

Thomas Paine

"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure."

Letter to W.S. Smith, 13 Nov. 1787

Thomas Jefferson

"Brave men, and worthy patriots, dear to God, and famous to all ages".

The Doctrine and Discipline of Education

John Milton

"Here is the mainspring of patriotism"

Speech Oct. 30 1919

David Lloyd George

"Our country's welfare is our first concern, and who promotes that best - best proves his duty."

Repulsion

William Havard

"What do we mean by patriotism in the context of our times?... A patriotism that puts country ahead of self; a patriotism which is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime. There are words that are easy to utter, but this is a mighty assignment."