

Volunteers for Democracy

Read from Isaiah 6: 8-

"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

Whom shall I send,

And who will go for us?

Then he said: Here am I: send me."

And He said: "God, and tell this people:

Hear ye indeed, but understand not;

And see ye indeed, but perceive not.

This reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah tells us 2 things. It tells us that in a time when there was no one who would represent God among mankind, Isaiah answered the call and said, "Here am I, O Lord, send me".

The passage also tells us that Isaiah was commissioned to go and tell this people - you hear but you do not understand; you see but you do not perceive.

The situation in which Isaiah found himself is the situation of our time, for we are engaged in a great struggle with the Soviet Union which demands from us the greatest perception and understanding, yet we hear but understand not; and we see but perceive not.

The S. U. attracts new allies to its side, by posing as the representative of the poor against the rich. In Cuba and in SE Asia, Communism has succeeded because missionaries of the Communists fervently taught the impoverished masses that Russia would help them overthrow their wealthy and indifferent masters.

The Communist missionaries told the poor people that the U.S. was the ally of the rich, and must be hated and opposed for this reason. THE S. U., WE MUST ADMIT, HAS WISELY EXPLOITED THE IMAGE OF ITSELF AS THE SAVIOR OF THE POOR. WHILE THE U. S. HAS DONE LITTLE OR NOTHING TO EXPLOIT ITS IMAGE.

THE CONGREGATION THIS EVENING IS MADE UP OF YOUNG AND OLD, CHRISTIAN AND JEW, AMERICANS A.L. It behooves each of us to ask himself the question - WHAT IS THE GREAT IDEA OF AMERICA? AND WHY HAVEN'T WE BROUGHT IT WITH MISSIONARY FERVOR TO THE OTHER PEOPLES OF THE WORLD? WHY ARE WE LOSING THE BATTLE FOR ALLIES TO THE S. U.? Why is it that we hear the sounds of confusion, but understand not?

What is it that we ~~perce~~ see the nations alligning against us, but we perceive not? And why is it that so few of us say with Isaiah, "Here am I O Lord, ready to teach and to spread the word".

The idea that the Soviets exploit is that they are the champion of the poor. The great idea of America, frequently forgotten, is that the individual is sacred, that he has inalienable rights which no governmental power, nor any majority can take from him. The S. U. says to the hungry, "Come with us and we will feed you". The U. S. ought to be saying with the prophet Isaiah, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your gain for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your SOUL DELIGHT ITSELF IN FATNESS". Hear and your SOUL SHALL LIVE."

Ex.-when I was in the U. S. Army and attended the School for Information and Education, I was taught along with others, that the most heroic American soldiers were the children of immigrants who had just come to America. Apparently, those who have just won their freedom appreciate it more than those who have had it so long, ~~they don't~~ *that they* und. it or appreciate it.

The POINT WE WANT TO ABSORB TONITE IS THAT IF WE ARE TO EXPORT ENTHUSIASM FOR THE AMERICAN IDEA, WE MUST COME TO UND. IT IN DEPTH, AND WE MUST BECOME EXCITED ABOUT IT. WE MUST BECOME MISSIONARIES OF THE DOCTRINE OF INDIVIDUALISM.

HOW CAN WE TEST OUR UND. OF THE AMERICAN IDEA? I PROPOSE A SERIES OF TEST QUESTIONS. I AM GOING TO ASK YOU A QUESTION NOW, AND I WANT YOU TO THINK OF A YES/ OR NO/ ANSWER.

QUESTION- Is an immigrant just naturalized less of an American under the law than a child of 5th generation American parents

Question: if a negro sat next to you at a lunch counter, would you get up and leave.

Question: do you think that rel. prayers in a public group should be presented in such a way as to exclude members of a minority group.

Question: would you accept as truth a rumor about a certain person unless you gave him a chance to ~~comment on the subject.~~ *give him side by side story.*

IN MY OPINION, IF YOU ANSWERED TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS WAS YES, THEN YOU NEED SOME SENSITIZING ON THE ~~IDEALS~~ IDEALS OF AMER. DEMOCRACY.

If America is to survive the cold war with the SU, it must learn again the lessons of 1776; it must again come to believe in the sanctity of the individual, *any individual*

If we are to export our great Amer. idea, we must 1st show the world that we as Americans are enuff convinced of its superiority to practice it ourselves.

If America is to win the cold war, many more of us must become VOLUNTEERS FOR DEMOCRACY; and we must say *in reply to* the divine call for teachers of the word, HERE AM I O LORD USE ME.

WHAT IS THE GREAT AMERICAN IDEA? It is an idea for the heart and the soul. The Soviets offer an idea for the stomach. They have an immediate advantage, and they have crusading missionaries. They have trained and fanatic workers who are willing to risk prison and death. We ~~seem~~ don't seem to have Americans with the same missionary ideals who will go out into the foreign territories to teach the American idea.

Before we can teach, however, before we can get excited about the American idea, WE MUST COME TO UND. IT IN ITS BREADTH AND DEPTH. What we don't und and don't perceive is that it took mankind almost 6,000 <sup>laborers</sup> yrs. to attain to this idea. We don't seem to und. that the notion of the sanctity of the individual is a delicate one which can be smashed asunder at any time. If you read early American history you will find that the founding fathers of our country were very much aware of the fact that they were establishing something new in human history, that they were climbing to a new height. In the 20th century we Americans seem so indifferent to our liberties, so blind to the value of what we have, that someone could steal them away from us and we wouldn't even know that we had been robbed. It was precisely in this manner that the Germans cheered Hitler even as he put handcuffs on them.

When I was in law school 20 yrs ago, a professor gave us a wonderful illustration of the meaning of the American idea of individualism. He said, "consider that you are in a crowd, and each person has an umbrella. Each person is entitled to open that umbrella at any time at any place, provided that in doing so, he does not deprive anyone else of his right to open his umbrella, and provided that he doesn't harm anyone else in exercising his own right.

That part of our Constitution guaranteeing this freedom to us is called THE BILL OF RIGHTS. It teaches us that even if every other person in the country thought one way about something, and a single individual thought otherwise, he would have the right to think, speak, and act, as he wished provided that he didn't hurt others in so doing or violate existing law.

Among other things the Bill of Rights guarantees to each of us the right to worship god as he chooses. Rel. in America has nothing to do with majority or minority. It has nothing to do with voting power. Rel. in America is supremely an individual matter. And under our law the one worshipper of a unique rel. is as precious and has as many rights as the members of the majority religion. A group of people composed of believers in two or more diff. faiths ~~do not~~ can not take a vote and compell the members of the minority faith to go along with the majority.

As far as American law is concerned, we do not meet here this evening as Jews and Christians, as Baptists and Methodists. According to American law, we constitute a body of individuals assembling together voluntarily, and each of us is supreme in his own right.