

PORTION OF ADDRESS BY SENATOR OWEN BREWSTER
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America---Past, Present, and Future

Historically American businessmen shunned politics--aside from what were called "the interests" who had a considerable concern in the action of the government as affecting their particular enterprises.

Politics was considered a somewhat slimy business from which it would be well to draw one's skirts aside if one may mix his metaphors.

Recent revelations as to the rather intimate associations between politicians in certain areas and big time gamblers have not purified the political atmosphere.

Two world wars, however, and the economic integration resulting therefrom have forced American businessmen and everyone else for that matter to realize that we are all in politics for better or for worse.

A wise wag, observing the Washington scene, expressed his gratitude that we were not getting all the government we were paying for.

Businessmen are gradually learning the hard way that unless they take a far keener and more constant and more intelligent interest in politics they are not likely to have left any business to be concerned about.

In the House of Commons recently I observed the dramatic moment when Atlee announced the immediate nationalization of the steel industry and Churchill promptly challenged the government decision. Here was what may come to be recognized as one of the last milestones in the socialization of Britain following the Fabian tactics of the Webbs through the last quarter of a century.

The tragedy of steel nationalization is found in the failure of a popular majority in the last election to ratify any such program. Consider the travesty of inaugurating such a revolutionary proposal when British steel production is breaking all records. The employees are better off than ever before in history and the world faces the momentous decision whether the free world or the slave world can produce more steel.

In Washington in two world wars, we have seen the terrific struggle to organize production and to direct our economy from Washington.

This time the confusion seems to be thus far somewhat less well organized as President Truman disregards the injunctions laid upon his predecessor by the distinguished War Investigating Committee of which Senator Truman was the chairman.

Diffusion of responsibility has again reared its ugly head although every crisis has demonstrated its complete futility as the Truman Committee so repeatedly and effectively pointed out.

Businessmen and all other groups in our community life must organize to make their views known as effectively as the farm organizations and the labor organizations in full consonance with the American tradition. American citizens must be educated to understand the complex facts of modern industrial and social life if the republican form of government guaranteed in our constitution is to be preserved. Partial truths are as poisonous in the functioning of our commonwealth as arsenic in our breakfast food.

The battle of the American Medical Association to preserve our liberty of choice in the medical field as against the earnest advocates of socialized medicine, sponsored and financed by the government, is an excellent illustration of the issues which must be faced in the next few years and the methods by which their right solution must be sought. No one in industry or agriculture or in any other phase of our economic life need cherish the notion that he perhaps will be spared.

Visits in the totalitarian regimes of central Europe or in the socialized systems of some other European countries are extremely disillusioning as to what may lie ahead.

The future of America and of American enterprise remains for the present in the hands of the people.

As Benjamin Franklin pointed out very wisely a long time ago "We have given you a republic if you can keep it."

In Dublin in September the Indian delegates demanded aid from America although at the same time classifying us with England, France, and Holland as Imperial Colonialists.

Other delegations from Asia joined the cry in spite of our unprecedented action in freeing Cuba and the Philippines without the firing of a shot.

Later Tito requested our aid to maintain his Communist regime in Yugoslavia although stipulating he was to retain full freedom of action as to his future course.

Our President promises \$250,000,000. to the Philippines if they will inaugurate certain reforms--such as balancing their budget; eliminating graft and corruption in their police force; doing away with superfluous government employees; and instituting higher taxes.

\$12,000,000,000. is being offered to Europe to rearm. With what assurances as to their use is not quite clear.

America must not permit itself to be thought of as a benevolent old "sap" who doesn't know what it is all about nor as a "Good time Charley" spending his pappy's hard-earned inheritance.

Three generations from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves is liable to be eclipsed in this jet propelled age.

To portray anyone who questions a single penny of our foreign largesse as a reactionary, penny-pinching isolationist is a cunning piece of propaganda but not calculated to serve the salvation of America in these very critical days.

England has already balanced its budget and yet we give them a billion dollars and they add a billion dollars to their reserves and consider revaluing the pound.

We reduce our sheep population by 20,000,000 and become dependent for wool on Australia and South America. We then get excited when they raise the price of wool to ungodly heights although we need the wool to clothe an Army to defend their liberties.

We import 10,000,000 bushels of Canadian potatoes in order for our government to buy up and destroy 10,000,000 bushels of American potatoes at a cost of more than \$10,000,000.

America is rich enough to do a lot of these things but there is a limit. Our Communist comrades at home and abroad are amazed at our vitality but it clearly cannot go on forever.

Honesty in government is the prime requisite. Without it no government can be good. With it no government can be wholly bad.

A true liberal is an honest man with at least a little intelligence.

The world can probably not endure half-slave and half-free. The master of the slaves cannot hazard the contagion of freedom. An iron curtain cannot forever stifle the insatiable curiosity of human kind.

But it will be useless to sell freedom to the world at the expense of slavery at home. "What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Inflation and debt are a most subtle poison to destroy the fiber of a man or a nation.

Whether America will have the intestinal fortitude to resist the lure of the Lorelei or go the way of every other great nation that has deserted its early God remains to be determined.