Excerpts from Johnson's speech

(ED. NOTE — Here are excerpts from the speech delivered Tuesday by Vice President Lyndon Johnson at the annual dinner of the Maryland Chapter of the American Jewish Congress.)

I accept this honor with a reluctance that goes way beyond modesty. I remember so well the remark made to me many years ago by a wise old Texan.

"Young man" he said, "just remember that how many awards and honors you have isn't the real sign of greatness. It's how many you deserve."

I can't think of any honor I've ever wanted to deserve more than this one. I cherish the very thought that I have contributed in some measure to spreading liberty and opportunity to more of our citizens.

But I could never view this tribute as a tribute to me alone. You see, I got my "reward" for my efforts against discrimination long before tonight.

My reward has been an increased understanding and appreciation of what my country stands for and must be.

My "profit" has been a sharper awareness of what it is we offer when we Americans speak to the world.

Every race has right to have its fools

IN THE last several months I have been in many countries on several continents. I have seen many faces in that great mass of mankind which is caught up in turbulent change.

I have seen people who most of all need **hope.**

I have seen people who are yearning to be **free.**

I have seen people who are struggling to break the bonds of poverty, illness, and illiteracy.

You cannot work for long with the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity without achieving a better understanding of the forces that are most powerful among these people in far distant lands.

After all, the goal of our human rights organizations is to provide for our own citizens **the hope and freedom that** we hold forth as a goal to these masses in other lands.

Perhaps I can explain how much I really have gained from work in this field by talking a bit about a magazine article I read years ago. It was written by a man named Libby Benedict.

He pointed out that when someone shuts colored people, Jews, or Italians, many people often respond by saying, "Look at Ralph Bunche" or, "What about Einstein?" or, "Have you heard of Toscanini?"

Benedict made what seemed to me a vital point when he said that while these defenders of colored persons, Jews or Italians mean well, they have the wrong approach. Let me quote Benedict:

"What a minority group wants is not the right to have geniuses among them, but the right to have fools and scoundrels — without being condemned as a group.

"Every group has about the same proportion of wrongdoers. But when wrongdoers belong to a minority group their number is magnified in the minds of other people. Minorities would gladly give up the referred glory of their great men, if only the world didn't burden them with the ignominy of their scoundrels."

Who has not felt the sting?

IT SEEMS to me that if any people could take that lesson to heart it would be us Americans. For who among us has not felt the sting of being in a minority at one time or another?

I make that point only as a reminder that when we stand up against bigotry we are not being charitable to "other" groups. We are protecting our own liberties, our own precious rights to be judged as individuals.

I am sure that the President, and the many others who are giving such courageous leadership to efforts to achieve true equality of opportunity for all our citizens are doing so because they know that only in this way can they ensure that their children will be free.

Why should our government be so concerned about racial inequities?

There are some hard, practical considerations that none of us can overlook.

Our country and the whole free world is confronted with an immense challenge.

It is a challenge that stretches from the rice paddies of Viet Nam to the rain forests of Africa to the steamy villages of Latin America — right on to the farthest reaches of outer space.

To meet that challenge in triumph we shall need every resource this nation can muster.

We shall need the intellectual genius, moral strength, political astuteness, oratorical skill, mechanical know - how — all these and many things more we shall need.

We must remember, as Harry Emerson Fosdick once said, that "Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people."

Whatever may be offered by a lad trapped in the slums of Harlem, or a youngster isolated on an Indian reservation, or a boy struggling along on a midwestern farm — what ever each can offer the nation must receive.

• • •

"JOHN STEWART mill once wrote that, "The despotism of custom is everywhere a standing hindrance to human advancement."

We see the painful truth of this as we observe efforts to erase from our society the blot of racial and religious discrimination.

And I say this with no "Holier than Thou" attitude. **We all have been influenced by the ideas, the assumptions, the likes, the dislikes, of our fathers and grandfathers. Each of us is to some degree a victim of our environments.**

What we must do is free ourselves, and help to free each other, from the ignorance, the outmoded notions, that are incompatible with a free society in an age of nuclear weapons and space vehicles.

The recent flight into the distant yonder by Colonel Glenn was just one dramatic example of the extent to which we can overcome ignorance if only we devote the necessary resources and energy to the job.

We can also rip the evil of mystery from the dark outer spaces of human behavior if we will devote the necessary effort to finding ways in which the human race can live within a true brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God.

The Federal Government did not hesitate to take on leadership in a scientific effort where our goal is truly the stars.

I say that the Federal Government must be equally serious in its leadership of the effort to solve the problems of the human mind and spirit.

One problem is that scientific progress is so easy to identify.

Progress is often difficult to measure

PROGRESS IN the field of human relations is often difficult to see or measure.

And when conflict is so much more newsworthy than amity, people are likely to become lethargic, to fall victim to despair.

But I am not prepared to accept the notion that racial or religious hatred and conflict are inevitable any more than our forefathers were prepared to accept muddy roads and horses and buggies as an inevitable part of life.

We have got to believe that we can make this country a foremost example of what is possible for all the world.

We must have confidence that we can make ours a society in which men and women of all races, religions and backgrounds can live under conditions of mutual respect and of true equality of opportunity.

I believe that we can.

• • •

YO USEE, I came to Washington from Texas some 30 years ago. I remember what Washington was like then. I remember how difficult it was for a colored person to get a Government job of any importance or prestige.

We have come a long way in those 30 years.

You know, I got a sharp, personal reminder of what has been happening in this country recently when I went to San Antonio to urge the people to elect Henry B. Gonzalez to Congress.

We made whistle stops all over town. Late in the day we stopped near a big super market. I was given an eloquent introduction by a colored man who has been a friend for many years.

Then, if I may be modest enough to say so, I got up and delivered what I hoped was a good speech.

As the meeting broke up a middle-aged gentleman stepped up to the pick-up truck on which I stood and said:

"Mr. Vice President, I was born two blocks from this spot. And I've lived here all of a long life. But let me tell you that never in the wildest night did I dream that I'd live long enough to hear a white Texan Vice President of the United States come to this corner, be introduced by a colored person, and get up and appeal to the people to vote for a man named Gonzalez."

That was a sharply touching moment for me, because until that remark was made I was completely unaware of what really had taken place, or of how much it signified in the way of change.

Yes, there's been a lot of change in the last 30 years. But there's room for a lot more.

I pledge to you on behalf of the President that we're going to produce more progress in the first four Kennedy years than the country made in all those 30. I pledge you that.

But I appeal to you and to the other citizens of this community: Join in the fight.

Government cannot do the job alone. It ought not to try to do the job alone.

Isolationist America has vanished

YOU KNOW, I am sure, that large portions of America once were so isolationist that the people there cared little what happened beyond the shores of the United States.

Th American of Isolation has vanished. Housewives, barbers, cab drivers and clerks from one end of the nation to another are preoccupied with questions of world affairs.

"Who's ahead in Africa, the Communists or the United States?" they asq.

Or, "What about this revolution that's stirring up so much trouble in Latin America?"

Mr. and Mrs. Average American must realize that deeply involved in the crises that beset Africa, Asia and Latin America is the question of equal justice. This fundamental human yearning for dignity is at the very heart of so much of the turmoil with which we and others are grappling.

In summing up, let me again express my appreciation for this honor. I have given you many reasons why I have engaged in these activities that you seem to think worthy of special mention.

I must conclude by giving you the only reason that should really matter in the long run.

I am against bigotry and discrimination because I think they are wrong.

I am for human understanding, for equal justice, for equality of opportunity because I think they are right.

May this country always be the kind where a man needs, and the people demand, no greater explanation than this.

I thank you.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

—Johnson

(Continued from page 1)

ployment Opportunities.

Throughout his speech, the Vice President attacked bigotry and discrimination and inequality in opportunity.

"Whatever may be offered by a lad trapped in the slums of Harlem, or a youngster isolated on an Indian reservation, or a boy struggling along on a midwestern farm —whatever each can offer the nation must receive," he said.

His speech was interupted six times by applause from the 500 persons in the room.

Vice President Johnson declared that "when we stand up against bigotray we are not being charitable to 'other' groups. We are protecting our own liberties, our own precious rights to be judged as individuals."

• • •

THE VICE PRESIDENT noted the effect of "custom" in blocking what he described as the "obligation" of each generagion to make "more meaningful the more people' the principles of "morality, of religon, of respect for human worth on which this nation was founded." He added:

"I say this with no holier than thou' at'ltude. We all have been influenced by the ideas, the assumptions, the likes, the dislikes, of our fathers and grandfathers.

THE VICE PRESIDENT said he was "not prepared to accept the notion that racial or religious hatred and conflict are inevitable any more than our forefathers were prepared to accept muddy roads and horses and buggies as an inevitable part of life.

"We have got to believe that we can make this country a foremost example of what is possible for all the world." he declared. **"We must have confidence that we can make ours a society in which men and women of all races, religions and backgrounds can live under conditions of mutual respect and of true equality of opportunity.**

"I believe that we can."

A medallion award for Jewish community service was also presented at the dinner to Harry Greenstein, executive director of the Associated Jewish Charities.

Banquet guests included: Mr. and Mrs. W. A. C. Hughes, Mrs. Miriam Hughes, Mrs. Lena K. Lee, Councilman Walter Dixon, Mrs. Verda Welcome, Dr. Lillie Jackson, Mrs. Juanita Mitchell, the Rev. Marcus Wood.

The Rev. Harrison J. Bryant, Judge and Mrs. Robert Watts, Mrs. Marion Jackson Pierce, the Rev. Octavius Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Murphy, Deleverte Irma George Dixon, William V. Dixon, Senator Alvin Jones, Clarence Mitchell III and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Shaw.

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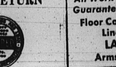

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WELL DESERVED HONOR — The East Baltimore office of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co. was recently presented the C C Spaulding Memorial Trophy as the outstanding district in the northern region of the company. Members of the office staff, front row, left to right: Mrs. Agnes Cullum, Mrs. Elsie West, Mrs. Susan Maker, Mrs. Irene V. Frazier, cashier, Gentry McDonald, staff manager, Edmund Martin, staff manager, Mrs. Martha B. Lewis, assistant cashier; Mrs. Catherine Walker, Mrs. Ada Marshall, Center row: William Larkin, Baxter Gee, Mrs. Gloria Gail, Arthur Ryan, agency president, Rufus E. Hackett, district manager, Mrs. Mabel Collins, Mrs. Katherine Winborne, Mrs. Irella Redmond. Back row: Elamt Saunders, James Sutton, Washington Jones, Roger Walker, John McIntosh, Albert A. Dawson. John Golden, Phillip Cook of the Newport News Agency.

746 registered this week; registration, 113,569

A total of 746 new voters registered between last Thursday and this Wednesday as the registration drive continued in high gear.

There were 392 registered Monday through Wednesday of this week.

There are just eight more days left for new voters to get on the books before the close of registration next Saturday — to be eligible to vote in the May 15 primary.

Latest unofficial count shows an all - time high of 113,569 colored registered voters in the city.

There are approximately 294,000 white citizens registered.

Numerous organizations thoughout the city are intensifying their efforts to register as many new voters as possible before the close of registration next Saturday.

• • •

THE SUPERVISORS of Elections office, People's Court Building, Gay and Fayette Sts., will be open Monday through Saturday of next week 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., for registrations.

In addition, this office will have mobile registration at these locations on the following days:

Monday — 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., School 216, 6001 Frankford Ave.; School 76, Fort Ave. and Decatur St.; School 151, 2401 Harmon Ave.; 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., UAW Hall, 1010 S. Oldham St.

Tuesday — 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Cherry Hill Center, 2700 Spellman Rd.; School 70, Warren and Battery Ave.; 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., School 22, Hamburg and Scott Sts.

Wednesday — 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., School 222, Pimlico Junior High; School 51, 34th St.-Westerwald Ave, and Fisby St.

Thursday—4 p.m. to 9 a.m. School 120, Pennsylvania Ave. and Robert St.; School 112, Laurens and Calhoun Sts.; Brager-Gutmans, downtown; 12 noon to 7:30 p.m., J. E. Smith Co., 836 Leadenhall St.

Friday — 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. Ambrose Church, Park Heights Ave. and Dolphin Ave.; School 120, Pennsylvania Ave. and Robert St.

The two mobile registration dates were arranged at the school on Pennsylvania Ave. and Robert St., after Dr. Lillie M. Jackson, NAACP president, had made the request to Supervisors of Elections officials.

The 113,569 colored citizens now registered mark an increase of 7,293 over the 106,306 eligible to vote in the November, 1960 general election.

Hume cites need for political morality

The trouble with politics in this country in general and in Maryland in particular is that we have forgotten the principles which made us great, according to David Hume, democratic candidate for the governorship.

"All we need to do . . . Is to use the ideas that made us great, to keep great," he told the Baltimore Chapter of the Frontiers at the group's weekly luncheon Tuesday.

Mr. Hume, a lawyer from Charles County, where the entire delegation voted for the public accommodations bill which failed to pass in the Maryland House of Delegates, said that they were supporting American principles.

"We can't take any credit for adhering to the principles established in 1776. We can't take credit for taking a position which recognizes the secret of the revolution in America — which spread to other parts of the world and saw the recognition of a higher law than man," he said.

Describing Charles County, which he located in southern Maryland, as "Deep South as Somerset County" (home county of Gov. Tawes, where the delegation voted against the bill), he said he had talked with the Charles County delegation and that they had seen the bill for what it was "without prejudice being involved."

He said the Constitution from the very beginning recognized the every man's rights to dignity and equal opportunity.

MR. HUME charged that politics today has become too cynical, with politicans interested more in their own welfare than that of the people.

The concept pervades our society, he said.

Asked to explain his economic program for the State, he advocated cleaning up the harbors and rivers of Western Maryland to make the area more desirable for industry and thereby decreasing unemployment.

For the Eastern Shore, he proposed to eliminate the "economy of scarcity" which he said is a system by which a few powerful men cut down the produce of the Chesapeake Bay to raise prices and line their own pockets.

Bd. of Estimates okeys own pay raise study

The Board of Estimates voted Wednesday to name a study commision to consider the possibilities of raising the salaries of the Mayor, City Council members and the other members of the Board.

Philip H. Goodman, president of the Board and of the City Council, cast the lone vote against the proposal. Mr. Goodman said he did not think the Board of Estimates should "initiate this study."

Francis B. Burch, city solicitor, came in with the proposal.

"It's ridiculous for the Mayor of Baltimore to be paid $15,000 a year," Mr. Burch argued. "When heads of other departments are paid more money, I think it's about time we had the courage to face up to this matter."

It was noted that any pay raises initiated would take effect after the next mayoralty election, and not necessarily apply to the elected officials on the present Board of Estimates.

Cyclist fatally injured in crash

A 21 - year-old motorcycle rider was killed last Saturday in an accident on Frankfurst Ave. in Fairfield.

Accident Investigation Division officers reported that Frank J. Black of the 1500 block E. Madison St. was killed when his motorcycle struck a bridge abutment.

Mr. Black was pronounced dead on arrival at South Baltimore General Hospital at 1:48 a.m.

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