

ADDRESS, 14TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
MARYLAND ASSN. OF STUDENT COUNCILS
BETHESDA

October 18, 1962

I am deeply grateful to your president, Frampton Ellis, for inviting me here today to attend this opening session of the Fourteenth Annual Convention of the Maryland Association of Student Councils.

I am well aware that I have the privilege of addressing the leadership in Maryland of students of your age group. The fact that you have been selected for membership in the governing organization of your student body is a demonstration of your fitness to be leaders. The experience you have had and are having will prepare you to continue in positions of influence into maturity.

Today, I should like to talk to you just briefly about some of the problems we face in the modern world and about some of the obligations and responsibilities we have as free men and women in a democratic society. These are trying times in which we are living, and it seems to me they are especially difficult for young people like you. The conditions under which we live change so radically from day to day that it is hard for the father to know his son and the son to understand his father.

You who are younger may have become accustomed to the modern pace in scientific and technological advancement. But I will tell you frankly things move so fast that they make me giddy. Your grandfathers, in their youth, read a tale by a French author entitled: "Around the World in 80 Days," and they read it as story-book fancy, delightful, but a little hard to believe. When you saw the movie adapted from the same tale, the only element of improbability about it was why it took so long. A trip to the moon only a few years ago was a dream of poets, romancers and song-writers. Now, mankind has shown that he is capable of propelling an object from the earth to the moon. In all likelihood, this flight of man through space to the moon will be made in your lifetime.

Sober books and magazines written for serious-minded persons deal nowadays with topics that only a few years ago would have been appropriate only for the science-fiction paperbacks. Under such conditions, wars and threats of war become terrifying almost beyond endurance. Armageddon, that battle described in the scriptures as one to be fought on "The Great Day of God" between the forces of good and evil, once