

August 18, 1962

Thank you, Mrs. ~~Packman~~ *Clark*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am speaking to you from Washington, D.C. I am not living in this city, but I have been staying here since February of last year.

If you stay in Washington long enough, you may begin to understand how governmental decisions come about, and what kind of pressures are at work.

Partly because of such pressures and partly for other reasons, the Administration has been ~~steadily~~ *so far* following the line of least resistance on the very crucial issue of the atomic arms race. It is much easier to keep on building long range solid fuel rockets, as fast as they can be produced, than to reach a consensus within the Administration in Washington on a reasonable proposal for arms limitations that Russia could conceivably accept. The trouble is that if we keep on following this line, we shall before long reach a point of no return in an all-out arms race.

For a number of years now, you have had the opportunity to observe how we as a nation respond to the actions of the Russians, and how the Russians respond to our responses. By now many of you may have been led to conclude that we are headed for an all-out war ~~and~~ *two*, I myself believe that our chances of getting through the next ten years without war are rather slim.

I personally find myself in rebellion against the fate that history seems to have in store for us, and I address myself to those of you who may be ~~wikix~~ equally rebellious. The question is, what can we do?

War seems to be inevitable unless it is possible somehow to alter the pattern of behavior which America and Russia are exhibiting at present. We as Americans are not in a position to influence the attitudes of the Russian Government; it follows that somehow we would have to bring about a change in the attitudes of our own government, *which in turn* ~~and hope that this~~ might bring about a similar change in the attitudes of the Russian government.

~~Last~~ Last November it occurred to me that in cooperation with others, I could try to set up an organization in Washington, a sort of Lobby - if you wish.)

The Lobby could bring to Washington from time to time scholars and scientists who know what it would take to stop the world from drifting into ~~an all out~~ ^{war} ~~arms race~~. These men would speak with the sweet voice of reason, and the Lobby could see to it that they would be heard by the Administration and also by the key members of Congress. The trouble is that these distinguished scholars and scientists would be heard but ~~probably~~ ^{that might} they would not be listened to, if they ^{are} ~~were~~ not able ~~either~~ ^{either} to deliver ^{votes} ~~or to make~~ ^{or else} substantial campaign contributions.

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But ^{if} ~~20,000~~ ^{20,000 to 100,000} people, who are concerned about ~~our drifting~~ ^{into war}, were able to unite on a set of reasonable political objectives, and if they were willing to make campaign contributions to congressional candidates in the amount of 4 ^{to 15} million dollars per year, then they ~~would~~ ^{be} ~~perhaps~~ ^{be in a position to} set up the most powerful lobby that ever hit Washington. The sweet voice of reason alone could not do the job, campaign contributions alone could not do the job, but the combination of ~~both~~ ^{both}, the sweet voice of reason and substantial campaign contributions ^{could} ~~would~~ very well do the job.

I should add at this point that in order to contribute 4 million dollars per year, 20,000 people would have to set aside 2% of their income for this purpose. Would they be willing to do this much?

Starting in November of last year at the Harvard Law School Forums and ending up in January at the University of Oregon, I spoke at eight universities and colleges. On ~~these~~ ^{these} occasions I described in detail how such a lobby would operate. In every case, I spoke before large student audiences, and afterwards, the students distributed mimeographed copies of my speech, in their home communities. Because of these activities, I have received to date 2,500 letters from persons pledging 1 or 2% of their income.

The majority of the pledges were for 2%. A minority of the pledges were for 1%, mostly from people who are ^{more} putting several kids through college.

Because of this ^{enough} favorable response, two political committees, the Council and the Lobby for Abolishing War, were set up in June in Washington. ~~Both of them operate under the same Board of Directors.~~

The text of my speech has been recently reprinted, and I should be glad to send a copy to those of you who write to me before the end of September. ^{Write} at the Hotel Dupont Plaza in Washington, D.C. where I am staying at present.

The Lobby ^{is} will support ^{ing} those now in Congress who are deeply concerned about our drifting into war. More importantly, ^{in 1964} the Lobby will try to find able men and women who are similarly concerned and who could get elected to Congress if they were to receive the nomination of their party. The Lobby will try to persuade them to seek the nomination and it will help them to get the nomination, by assuring them in advance of adequate campaign contributions.

The Council will bring to Washington from time to time scientists, scholars and other public spirited citizens who could help members of the Administration and of Congress to clarify their minds on the issues which have to be resolved if peace is to be based on reliable foundations.

We ^{have found} find ~~that~~ it possible to draft a set of political objectives on which ~~most~~ reasonable people can unite. These objectives are listed in the platform of the Council which is in the process of being drafted. ~~Most of these objectives have been foreshadowed in the speech which I mentioned before.~~

If ~~after you have read the speech~~, you should decide to take part in this ~~political~~ movement, ^{then} the Lobby would ~~then~~ advise you to whom your campaign contributions should go in order to do some good. You would be expected to weigh the recommendations of the Lobby before you make up your mind which candidate you want to support. And finally, you would be asked to make out your check directly to the candidate of your choice, but to send it for

transmittal to the Lobby in Washington.

Two per cent is a large chunk of a man's income, and we are not going to ask you to make such contributions year after year unless we find that the Lobby is, in fact, able to deliver the goods.

Many of ~~you~~ ^{these} who are listening to this broadcast may think that I am too pessimistic, and that there will be no atomic war because these days no government in its right mind would start such a war. To ~~you~~ ^{these men women} I have nothing ^{very} much to say, except perhaps that at times I envy ~~you~~ ^{their} your rosy view of the world.

To those of you ^{however} who share my apprehensions, I have this message: ~~harsh~~ :

You might wish ~~at~~ ^{just} this point to move with your family to Uruguay or to Brazil, even an all-out atomic war between Russia and America may leave most of South America physically untouched. If you believe that the time has come for you to abandon ship, I have no right to tell you to stay, for we cannot say at this point ~~with~~ with any degree of assurance, whether the Lobby would succeed. This may largely depend on whether the Lobby will be able to enlist the wholehearted support of 20,000 people.

~~Perhaps~~ ^{5 believe that} the time has come for those of you who don't abandon ship to man the pumps. Perhaps you ought to give your support to the kind of Lobby that I have been talking about. As I said before, I shall be glad to send you a copy of my speech if you write to me at the Hotel Dupont Plaza in Washington, D. C. You could then see for yourself if it makes sense to you.

→ The Lobby, the Connolly Board, meets every two months
Thank you for your attention, ladies and gentlemen, and I wish you pleasant dreams.

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↙ The situation is not going to get any better if we sit on our hands. Time is not working for us it is working against us. Right now

Sat., Sept 8th
6:00 channel 4
Wn., WRC

Sun., Sept 23rd
WNBC New York
1 pm channel 4