



4-16-1970

What Is "Right" About America

Lewis F. Powell Jr.

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Recommended Citation

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*Melvin Ely
New Norment
Poe Bear*

Leadership Banquet
Key Club
Thomas Jefferson High School
Richmond, Virginia
April 16, 1970
Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

X

WHAT IS "RIGHT" ABOUT AMERICA

1. Bill of Rights - Personal Liberty

No other country has greater liberty to speak
criticize
assemble
demonstrate
strike
travel
privacy

Rights of defendants in criminal cases

2. Opportunity

No caste or class system

Every youth may be President - Truman
Eisenhower
Humphrey
Nixon
Thurgood Marshall

Education - college available for all (50%)

3. Generous and Humane

At home - Scope of private charity
United Fund
Red Cross

Abroad - After W/W I (Hoover - war relief)
Foreign Aid

Cf U.S. & Russia after World War II^{2.}

4. Not Imperialist

(The Big Lie of Communists)

5. Protected Free World from Aggression

(Burden on U.S. Taxpayers)

6. Country Everyone Would Like to Live In.

No Berlin Wall

Chicago Seven - let them stay in Cuba!

{ Poland
Latvia, Lithuania,
Estonia
Kuriles
Eastern Europe

Cf - Japan, France, etc

OUR COUNTRY - AND DEMOCRACY - NOW THREATENED
BY A RETREAT FROM REASON

1. Denial of Free Speech

- (a) Speakers on Campus - McNamara (Harvard)
Humphrey (Univ. of Massachusetts)
Kliendeist (U.Va.)
- (b) Job opportunity - Campus Recruiters - Dow; GE; Chase Bank
Military Services

2. Denial of Education Opportunity

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- (a) Militant minorities - close down colleges.
- (b) Picket and disrupt classes of conservative and moderate professors.
- (c) Drive ROTC off campus, denying this opportunity to fellow students.

3. Resort to Violence Rather than Reason

- (a) Coercion and violence to attain ends - rather than rational discussion.
- (b) Sit-ins; seizure and destruction of property
- (c) Looting of files.
- (d) Arson - bank burned by Univ. of California students.
- (d) Bombings in New York.

4. Disruption of the Courts
Black Panthers in New York
Chicago Seven
5. Other trends toward disintegration of our society and the values which have sustained it:
 - (a) Strikes against Society (not private employers)
Examples: Air controllers; postmen; police in Montreal; teachers
 - (b) Moral standards falling - obscenity
sex
drugs
 - (c) Dilution of Patriotism
(Flight to Canada)
(Bill by Massachusetts Legislature)
6. Doctrine of Civil Disobedience
7. Crime in the Streets

51/167 6cc 4/15/70

Key Club
T. J. High School
April 16, 1970
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THE NEED FOR LEADERSHIP - NEVER GREATER

It is not an exaggeration to say that the radical and nihilistic forces now so active in this country could - if unchecked - destroy the qualities that have made America the noblest country in all history, the most humane and generous, the one affording the broadest liberties and the greatest individual opportunities.

These forces and trends could, indeed, destroy our democratic system of freedom under law - a system which, despite faults and injustices which exist in all human institutions, has been the envy of the world.

If this system is destroyed or allow to disintegrate the consequences will be unimaginable. The cruelty, disruption and destruction of a revolution would be followed by an authoritarian dictatorship of the Right or the Left - whichever prevailed in the bloody showdown. The only alternative to a representative democracy is dictatorship, and the New Leftists who now seek to undermine or destroy our democracy would

replace it by the tyranny of a Castro or a Mao Tse-tung.

This is your country these revolutionaries are denouncing and seeking to tear apart. Your future, your right to live, to work, to raise a family and to enjoy the blessings of free America - are all at stake. In short, these New Leftist enemies of freedom are your enemies.

As members of the Key Club of this outstanding school, you already have proved yourself to be leaders. There has never been a time in our history when thoughtful, responsible and progressive leaders were more urgently needed. When you are in college, you will be challenged by students and faculty members who belong to the New Left or who are its sympathizers or dupes. On the basis of your fine record here, we may hope - and indeed be confident - that you will meet this challenge.