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Lacey TM

I was just excited this noon as I began to look at some of the challenges that you articulated

and you know this is the second town meeting that we've had. It was mentioned this morning that

the first was in Lacey Washington and we have been articulating national challenges in both

those, but you can't articulate national challenges except you from the perspective of where

you stand, and you stand as residents of Whittier, and it was just amazing to me to see the

similarity, the same kind of challenges are articulated by you all that were articulated by

the residents of Lacey Washington, that kind of ~~kind~~ that kind of ~~promising~~ ~~sun~~ ~~cross~~

the sun is amazing to me, and this afternoon we are going to be ~~trying~~ to articulate the

proposalists to deal with those challenges. And I guess in one sense you might talk about our

planning for the next 200 years and that's kind of mind boggling and when you talk about

together

planning, you wonder what are the kind of people, what kind of people are going to do this

Planning? What kind of people are going to talk about the kind of people who are <sup>scouting</sup> serving?

For the next 200 years. What is the new American citizen that's coming into being. And I don't

know if you come out of the kind of tradition that I do but that's one of the scouting

traditions, and I was just trying to recall in my mind some of those characteristics that

we used to make a list of you know, as Scouts, things like trustworthiness, friendly, loyal,

courteous, kind obedient, brave cheerful thrifty - that was some list wasn't it, and you

know today it's kind of fun to fiddle a little bit with the kind of list, the kind of person,

the kind of new hero you'd like to see today, or what kind of quality you'd like to see the

new citizen have and I was just fiddling with that and came up with some things like this

How about a citizen as humorous as Jack Benny, as hard working as a coal miner, as persistent

as a prospector during the Gold Rush Days, as adventurous as an astronaut, as audacious as

Mohammad Ali, as resourceful as a businessman, as global as Kissinger

Well, you could play with that all day and come up with the kind of qualities you'd like to

see and regardless of the kind of person that has been the citizen of this country, or

regardless of the kind of person that we'd like to see come into being, there is emerging

indeed and already is in being a new American citizen and we just want to talk a little

bit I guess this afternoon about who that person is as I see it. I sense it's a person,

the American citizen that's coming into being these days is a man, a woman who is lucid

who knows his time and lives in them and I don't know I'm a school teacher and I teach the

fourth grade in an inner city school in Chicago and I just found that lately I've been

constantly perpetually humiliated, that despite my best efforts nothing seems to change,

that I just seem to fall over and over again. That I've been trying to deal with some

of these issues that we've articulated, that you all have articulated here

like involving everyone in making decisions, like developing a comprehensive education

system, I've been teaching for 8 years and I've been working on that and it just seems like

I've gotten nowhere, that no matter what I've tried it hasn't made much difference, and I

just become frustrated, and I guess it just damned on me one day that in order to be a really

good teacher it would require 24 hours a day 365 days a year, something like that, and I think

you see that on TV now. I was just thinking about rather new TV series, Rhoda, you know and

there was one program I remember watching one night when Rhoda had, let's see she had grown

up in New York and she moved back to New York, and she went to Minneapolis, and then she

went back home and she moved in with her parents, and this particular show she was just

going in and out all the time, and her mother just kept coming in and saying why don't you

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go out and get a job, why don't you do something, and Rhoda would just lie there, and it seemed like 2 years, and the TV show is just 30 minutes I think but it seemed to go on forever, just that kind of paralysis set in relative to vocation, relative to engagement about what my life needs to be about, how to be effective and feeling an utter failure That kind of collapse of vocation is just manifest and is a part of our society today, I think. The struggle with vocation shows up over and over again in tv programs, there are so many on the TV programs that come out dealing with the whole issue of vocation. I mean there are politicians, there are detectives, there are men, there are women, doctors and lawyers, the whole list of your vocations struggle that is going on there is quite evident, and the suffering that goes on in the midst of that, that everything is up for question and in terms of the values being held before, they are all being questioned again, just the

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whole meaning of life. And yet in the midst of that I believe that people are just caring,

*then are*  
caring so deeply that you know you find yourself either turning off the TV or find yourself

with it on and just the slightest little thing, just some child's face on TV just immediately

addresses you in terms of it just being an impact on your life personally, you don't really

don't even know that child, that kind of thing. Well, if you look at the events of the 20th

century in terms of the United States and look at the war and the depression and you look at

the Korean War and the cold war and the civil rights movement and you look at Watergate and

you look at the trouble with the economy now, and you see the kind of history we have, and

you know with that kind of history that this kind of ~~hassles~~ struggle is just not going to

and it's a never ending kind of thing and yet you remember that old ~~thing~~ *things*

*there is*  
don't give up the ship. Well, it's kind of like that. ~~The future is the only future we have~~ *ship*

*to take control of the future*

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this is the only vessel we have and it's what has brought us to this present moment

and its what has given us the possibility of the ~~future~~ creating the future that we have

*to*

before us, something like that, that people today are willing to use the past rather

than destroy it, something like that. Well, the times today are not unlike the times

of Valley Forge and the kind of struggle that was going on there. Maybe this is the

Valley Forge of the next 200 years that we're going through now. Well, in the midst

of this what has happened to the American people themselves. I believe that a new kind

of human being has come into existence that embodies the struggle and the creativity

that's going on in these times and he's a ~~man~~ profound human being, a profound

human being related to the whole world. Phil was talking about that this morning.

just in terms of ~~acting~~ you have access to the whole world in terms of the English

language, in terms of travel, in terms of our TV set, that kind of thing, and so it's not a question of being related any more, we are, we just are. It's a question of what are those relationships going to be. Man knows that he's related to every other person on the earth.

What are going to be those relationships, what kind of relationships, and talking in terms of particularities, have you seen the reality of the phases of life, ~~we've had the youth~~ <sup>the way</sup> revolution, and that's over, and I think we can say that's over because it's been won, and

it's been won in terms of ~~not showing~~, I guess in terms of ~~showing~~ <sup>the adults</sup> how to act their age, or something like that. And then the whole question of elders and how they

participate ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> life. You know people are asking questions, not how do I participate in life when I'm in the peak of life in some average age, but at every point people are asking

how do I participate in life fully as a 10 year old, as a 20 year old as a 40 year old, as

how can I be an effective participant and engage e creativity in life today. That

question's being raised in life today over and over and we had an incredible women's

revolution and we have to say that's over and that's been won and the question no longer

is one of biology or culture but it has to do with having to reinvent ~~what's~~ needed or

what we need to do or what's being done is inventing all over again the role of what

it means to be a woman and what it means to be a man, and that kind of possibility is

before us. Well, behind all these revolutions the man, the woman, the youth, the elder,

~~in terms of~~ ~~emerging~~ nations, the black revolution, behind all these I think there's an

awareness that's growing deep within the human being that our situations are always in

tension between having to create some kind of plan and model w/ hard rationality to it,

and then finding that life just comes in terms of wild irrationality, there are intrusions

that come in the midst of the best laid plans, the best laid models

and the unexpected. We find that we're always inventing, always inventing the new,

inventing new images, new styles, new ~~things and roles~~ <sup>things</sup> that's just the way

we find ourselves experiencing life today, and there's no justification for it, we

really don't know if ~~what we~~ <sup>what we</sup> are doing is right but going ahead and doing it, you

know back when there was the slogan of go west young man go west, there weren't

just ten good reasons why this was the right thing to do, but someone just decided

~~this was~~ necessary and this was done. And Patrick Henry standing up and saying and

~~as for me~~ give me liberty or give me death. He was starting to stand up and ~~take~~ <sup>take</sup>

a stand. ~~Now~~ he was not sure that finally that was the right stand to take, but he decided

to take it, daring to risk and stand up and be counted. It's part of the American tradition

that I believe that we're reinventing again today. and I guess that I'm talking about

something that's happening in terms of the American spirit, of the spirit of the American people today, it's kind of like the spirit of '76. It's radically different. Shortly after

JFK was elected president he called together some of the men that he worked with and he

said I don't see that war is a viable alternative to the way we need to move in this nation

but what is it, what are some possibilities that we have as a national mission, how do we

need to move as a nation, and several possibilities were suggested like farming the ocean

the space program and that kind of stance, that kind of openness to the future was a part

of the American that's emerging today. and that kind of style. And I believe also that the

spirit today has to do with recovering the significance of the very present day by day moment

just recovering each moment and its significance. Benjamin Franklin I've been told

had a notebook where he just jotted down notes, his reflection on things that happened during the

day. He kept that kind of notebook and reflected about that way on just the very particularity of his life and of the life around him. Well, I think that he knew that the future was created out of ~~the~~ just the mundanity of the present, and I think that's being recovered and rediscovered today. I think that people just know that life is full of mystery, we find that life is always hitting us again with its seriousness, with the unexpected, and yet with the wonder of it sometimes with the terror of it, and that life is full of freedom, ~~and~~ that we have the freedom to create, that our freedom is our creativity relative to the future and that life is full of care. We find that we just show up caring, ~~and~~ men today does, not that he wants to care, not that he likes caring, he just finds that he cares. And then life is full of fulfillment, and that's to say that life is just filled full with whatever it is filled full with and that that is just a greater part of life is grasping that in the midst of everyday life. Well, the new citizen that is emerging is one that acts and his action is one of service, I believe, you know

I believe that part of the American tradition is to build a better world. I mean there are alot

of slogans out of the past to build a better world and you think back, US steel I think it is

has that slogan, I think it is we're involved - just a little short thing like that, but what

that implies is that you are not just involved in the making of steel but they're involved in

the broader concerns in the concerns of mankind. That kind of thing is just part of today and

citizen  
the system that is emerging today is one that as a planner, he's a model builder, he's

a problem solver. He's one who is responsible to the times, in terms of building models and

acting strategically, <sup>practically</sup> in fact I know in the community I live in in Chicago there was groups

decided that some housing needed to be built, and instead of taking hammer and nails and

going out involving money and getting busy and building anything, doing a housing project

themselves what they did was to create a story, not a story but an image, to ~~explain~~ paint a

picture of what that community could look like, of what that housing project would be an

what it would mean to the community, and then they went around and talked to the people in

the community and bankers and people who could lend their support, just painting the picture

of that possibility and what that could be, and began to work that way. That kind of work.

And then the person who emerges today is the one who knows that corporate action is what

is necessary. And that is just an integral part of the American heritage I believe. I think

it was Benjamin Franklin again who said "Gentlemen we ~~just~~ all hang together or most assuredly

we will all hang separately"

*But you see what was there & he understood the cruciality of it*

teamwork, and we see that today that's just a part of our heritage today in terms of sports

in terms of medicine today where there is a team of experts who guide and direct that take total

care of an individual in terms of trips to the moon the Apollo mission just over and over again

the cruciality of teamwork way back in the past the wagon trains I suppose were an example

of that. And then I think that also that the emerging citizen knows that this is a perpetual task.

That was known way back. I was interested to learn just recently that our founding fathers for a long

time didn't know that they were founding a nation. They thought that they were founding a federation

of states for a long long time and then one day they discovered that what what they had on their hands

was a new nation. And I don't know when you reflect about it we were a colony almost as long as we

were an independent nation. It was something like 150 years that we were a colony.

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compared to the twohundred years since then. Something like that. I know in my mind better than this, but I think to myself sometimes that George Washington came over on the Mayflower.

And that's just not true at all. There's a tremendous gap of about 150 years in between there.

It's something like that that the task of nationbuilding is a perpetual one. And it's one that

I suspect we're continuing here today in the work that we are doing. That we're not going to

solve all the problems that need to be solved in this nation or in this community today but

that we are forging ahead in that task, we're beginning to do that, we're beginning to paint a

to do

picture of what needs to happen and how we can create that practically. The new American

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he's a profound human being he's a man of spirit who knows that the way to move into the future  
and to get things done is through working corporately. working with a plan with a vision

And I believe just in closing a great little story I heard again about Benjamin Franklin

I guess he's a favorite of mine. During the continental congress he sat all during the  
continental congress with a chair in front of him in the back of it had a sun that was halfway

up on the horizon and he looked at that all the way through the Continental Congress

And at the end he stood up and being a reflective man made a comment something like this.

He said Gentlemen, I've been looking at that <sup>sun</sup> halfway up on the horizon during the whole

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Continental Congress . And after seeing and hearing and participating in what's going on here

and seeing what's been done I've decided that that's a rising sun and not a setting sun .

Well, I believe that so it is today . He knew the significance of creating the meaning of the

present moment in order to create the future . And I believe that's true today .