

About two years ago I had the privilege of taking a trip around the world and got the shock of my life because every country ^{that} I visited someone in that country, whether it was a cab driver or a bell hop or even a couple politicians ^{that} asked if I could help them get a visa to get into America. And I was shocked.

I went to their country to see all the romance and nice stuff there you know. When I got back I talked to a friend of mine from Thailand who's ^{visiting} the United Nations responsible for working out international travel and international ^{travel} visas and I told him this story. And he said, well I'm surprised you were shocked.

Dont' you know that we discover day in and day out that more people in the world would live in the United States if they could. That's the country they most want to live in. Well I came through Kate Smith ^{reproaching} flagwaving days as a kid and I got cynical. Well this kind of turned my cynicism around. This

So let's look at this country a little bit, this country that most of the people in the world would live in

centuries briefly. You want to call the 1600s the days of founding. Can you imagine that Mayflower

pulling up and them refusing to get off after all those months of sailing and however long it took them

to get over here. They refused to get off until they drew up a document ~~xxxxxxx~~ on how they

would live and function together when they touched shore. That I figure if the first town meeting in

American history. But the days of founding in the 1600s, the 1700s we would have to call the emerging

nation and what heroes there were in that time as they worked to draw out the Constitution, I got to

Constitution Hall, or that area in Philadelphia, and I can't imagine what went on. I can capture some

moments of history, but these guys sitting there, forging out, working...well then the 1800s were

maybe the days of expansion when we moved across the country and they were the years and the times of

strange difficulties when we had what we dated to call the Civil War, but it was an effort to hold us

together as a people despite some glaring differences, and that old Constitution that was formed the previous

century held the nation together and moved on through the pain of those awful moments. And then we move on

into the 1900s which has to be the period of technological prowess, or when before the Kitty Hawk took off we were thought of as in the age of advancement and technology, and it was in that same period when we were still adolescents as a nation that we were suddenly given global power, or looked on as the global power, and it was as though history was trying to say grow up, grow up, and we were saying we're not ready, we're still adolescents but here we were thrust into that kind of situation. It's like we weren't pushed as much into the future as elicited or pulled by the future. Well, that kind of brings us up to date now maybe, in a very sketchy way. I don't know, I don't have any way of comparing but I doubt if the storms of crisis have ever been any heavier on any people than they are upon us today, and you want me to name them? There's the kinds of problems we're facing this morning. Who's the big labour leader who doesn't like Jerry Ford most of them don't. Well, he was on the radio screaming about the unemployment and that's kind of scary. It ought to have us scared. I'm from Detroit originally and man have we got unemployment over there, one

I am. And we can move on. We've just gone through the ~~the~~ delicacy of some political upheavals that had us all in deep pain. The politicians themselves that are trying to find ways of working through these delicate times. The oil crisis. Did you go through times up here --you've got to have oil up here, My word,

I came from Southern Ohio in the early blizzardly stages where you've got to be worried. Well there's just crisis after crisis, we could go on. ^{ADD} As to that, the fact though that we are a people built on crisis. This is no strange ^{thing} to us. We have a history that has informed us that we can make it, a great history, painful at times, but than we've got to add something else to that and that is, what I have to call global ^{inter}relatedness.

I alluded to it a minute ago. But no longer do we just settle the problems within our shores. We've got Hawaii out there and Alaska up there, but everything that happens here affects every place else in the globe and and things happening there, ala the Arabs turning off the spout affects us here. A new kind of interrelatedness is just there. We didn't ask for it. In a way it's just the way it always was but we

were not so aware of it. And we could live in an isolated way and increase in a pretty smug way. Not so today.

I was thinking about the German Space department in Bonn was buying Cadillacs because they liked them better than some of their own products for all of their statesmen and limousines, and they quit and in this national thing we'll go back to Renaults or whatever it is they want to drive what would it be - Mercedes Benz I guess.

And that affected my son because he works for Cadillac in Detroit. You can't touch one place without affecting us globally today. And we all know that. This is nothing new. The way television screams in us and brings us

You know I'm so confused over that Cambodian thing I used to be a pacifist. I was a hawk for a while, and they put on a television blurb the other day about what's going on there. I don't know what the answer is. I'm confused, but the fact is that everybody is clear that we're interrelated. And the problems that we face here

is compounded by the fact that we have this interrelatedness, this ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Thomas Paine, I get some old timers mixed up, who said they times try the soul - well, we're in soul trying times with the fact of our own situation

and the crisis we're facing compounded then by the fact that its interrelated with every other place in the globe. I can't get over the fact that somebody ~~that somebody~~ revealed the other day that ^{THEY} you take cotton from Georgia into Texas and make it into cloth, and it ends up in Macy's on what is that ^{33rd} street, next to Taiwanese cottons and next to it ~~guy~~ television sets and from Japan and all places in the world. Add it works both ways, just that interrelatedness is inescapable. I think maybe because ^{THEY} we know it, ^{THEY} know clearly, Lincoln might ~~say~~ something like this today. You can't even fool some of the people some of the time. Well, I think in the midst of this we have good news and bad news. What do you want first? You know wherever you look the story gets gloomier. We could ~~ix~~ pick any one of these crisis areas and shove it a little bit and get even more ^{DISASTROUS} ~~disturbing~~. Ecology has been bothering me. I really don't know why they don't open up these shelves and pump that oil down from Alaska and every other place fast. And ecologists can scare you if you listen to them.

Like I read so many articles on cancer that I quit reading, smoking and cancer. I couldn't quit smoking.

I'm afraid to read what the ecologists say these days because that oil situation or what is it one of them said the other day, if we keep our industrial growth at the rate it is now, in 50 years the earth will be too hot to live on because the heat generated by the factories. Well, where are we going to go? The thing the ecologists don't know though or haven't looked at is that we're not dinosaurs. They forget we're human beings, and that's the good news. We're human beings, we're not dinosaurs. Dinosaurs went into extinction because they couldn't hide their eggs from the other providers, the mammals, so they just went out of business. Well man has a greatness he can adapt, he can adjust. In the midst of these kinds of crises that are upon us, we have learned to adjust and adapt, to use that greatness, and history has shown us again and again where these adaptations and adjustments have been made and what I'm saying is, sure we got problems, but if we get together, we got no sweat. That adjustment is there. I think what we need to do on the birthday of our country, the 200th birthday is get together in a big constitutional convention and write the declaration of interdependence. We

we have the one now that we've got going, but this would be the declaration of interdependence, and it would be done by all people. I get that word from one of your professors here at the University of Michigan (12) years ~~and~~ ago he was a psychologist, psychiatrist That's University of Minnesota. That's all right. We used to play you guys in football, and wow. Yeah, he was with your adolescent psych department, and he's say ^S that the human goes through 3 stages in the process of maturing. Dependence, independence and interdependence.

Now I'd like to flip that sociologically. Is that maybe not where we are in this ~~kind~~ kind of a global of world universe that we're living in. a global society. We've gone through the time when we were dependent on certain things into the stage ~~in~~ of independence, but now because of the globality of our situation and the way we're so interrelated throughout, maybe we need a declaration of interdependence and how we, in the moves we make is in keeping with ~~those~~ in India, Australia, or where have you. And maybe we'd have a great constitutional convention ~~with~~ where we'd get the town meetings all over the country, all over the world,

with people like you and myself getting our wisdom, our greatness into the stew for this declaration of interdependence. We've said no man is an island kind of sentimentally, well, flip that sociologically - not even England is an island, no nation, no country is an island in the midst of this globality. I don't know I have hope, high hope because of the kind of history, the kind of people, the kind of experience we've had despite the kind of crisis we're currently have, crises we currently have. I saw a TV thing the other night that reminded me of one of the 3 most shocking moments in my life. One is when got news of John Kennedy's death, I, we all recall that. This one though was when the president came on and announced what we now call the Cuban crisis. Ninety miles off our shore missile bases were being built. Do you remember where you were when that announcement came? I hadn't though about it in years, but this TV special reminded me of it. It seems like there were 4 alternatives. Hit them immediately with bombs or give them warning by certain time get those things out of there or war's going to bomb or do nothing - that

certainly was an alternative, or the blockade of Cuba. And what I'm pointing here is the American spirit and it's the American spirit that can pull us through into the next hundred years, 200 years and these crises we see now will be gone. The American spirit that ventures out, it accepts the ambiguity of the decision. Nobody knew that a third world war wouldn't start because of that blockade. I was nervous, lost several fingernails. But it was a decision that had to be made in the face of what was considered a great crisis. Well that American spirit, to go across the continent in a Conestoga wagon, or to move and act in the face of crises, travel, is what's called for in our time. Maybe that's a bad illustration. I hope it never happens again, but the same kind of courage, that same kind of daring to risk for the future, and it's the future that is waiting. There is no existing future. The future is waiting to be created by people like you and you and other town meetings and other people at a very local level. Waiting to be created and the future will be created by somebody. Are we going to let crisis create it, or the kinds of intelligent thinking that is possible with a group like ourselves.

and its always a risk and you never know if you're on the right track. But as we work corporately and think through some issues at the level where we are, where the issues are, Lincoln was supposed to have gotten a letter from a lady at the height of the civil war and oh boy, she burned him. Everything he was doing was wrong. She just let him have it. Page after page after page. And finally he pulled out a penny postcard, if they had them then, and I think maybe they just started them, and he wrote "Dear Madam

^{if you move}
You may be write. Abe Lincoln" Well you know you never know for sure, but on the other hand if you don't

move you are letting history take care of you instead of creating history. That I think is what the Town Meeting is all about. We are each claled to be decision makers is the process. I don't know how you get

at. Maybe TDR's statement, the only thing we need to fear is fear itself. Or finally you know, I like Harry Truman, the buck stops here. That's the sign he had on his desk. The buck stops here. Same place along the line. Let me see, I got Lincoln, he's a Republican. Quick think of another. But it's that

Washington doesn't know the problems you're living with in this area. I was in DC last week and talked to several ^{people} leaders. They know about them, but they don't know them like most of us do. So that the answer is at the very local level ^{level} with us deciding and putting together our wisdom and others doing the same thing, and you know it's kind of funny, that moon shot - we said we were going to get to the moon in the 70s, and did - and in those pictures that came back and showed us ourselves like we'd never seen ourselves. Wasn't that funny seeing the ^{picture of the} earth for the first time. The thing that struck me, there were no dividing lines, there were no ghettos, there were no little countries north of the Mason Dixon and others south of - just one globe. Wendell Wilkie would have turned in his grave if he had seen one of those wouldn't he. One world. It was in 1940 he wrote that book (Wendell Wilkie's alive? - that's another Republican we got another republican) The diversity and the problems and the ^{crisis} ^{crisis} we must have created them, you didn't see them from the moon, did you, ^{or} after the dividing lines and so on. I had the privilege of listening. I've been interested in town meeting for some time. and I heard ^{of} a village on the northwestern

^{MURRUMJUM}
brink of Australia, way north of perth, its' an aboriginal station, we call it a reservation here in

America. Its an aboriginal station, and they started the town meeting process where together they put

together what they knew about their situation, what they knew about he crisis and issues they were facing

and started ~~his~~ to spin out of that and moving on ^{them} it, and in 8 months that aboriginal ~~tax~~ community was

^{TOTALLY}
economically ~~totally~~ independent . They sent their substance checks back to the Australian government. They went on

and opened up needed preschools that would assure that their kids could get on through the schooling

process. Just a changed, transformed community, out of Town meetings. And that's the way it got started,

as people got their wisdom into the ~~divisions~~ ^{decisions} that were being made, being made on a very local level

that's where it's at, at the local level. ^{LOCAL} It's here in tis community and now that process is going on

in several other aboriginal communities there where for years nothing had worked ^{with, nothing}

had gotten the situation off the ground. That's what the town meeting does for a local community

as we face the issues that we know and stew over them. And we're going to have to work hard today

and have fun, steering over some of the things that are concerning you, but it's going to take effort, ^{VERY}

it's going to take effort. It takes life expenditure or what was it ^{PRIME TIME}

I regret I have only one life to give to my country. Who said that one of you historians. Nathan Hale was

it. I would have missed that ~~by~~ by a mile. Well, you know, it may take the giving of ourselves

to a degree like that to bring about this sense of global village or the resolving of these crises but

in terms of the globality that is ours. Let me just review quickly what we've said and then move on into

our workshops. The entire past was required to bring the United States to where it is, at this

destinal moment. Didn't you hear me say that. The situation history has given us is precisely what

we need to move on the future. The future is not out there waiting on us, it just be created, the

expenditure ^{ALL} of our lives ^{WHAVE} for ~~the~~ the world can and will be done, and this is the way the future

will be changed. ^{THE} American experiment and its development is in your hands. God Bless America.

Shall we sing KATE SMITH'S SONG?