

This is just the beginning

(The complete text of Dr. Lee Brown's talk to the Jefferson High School baccalaureate)

It is indeed my pleasure to address this, the 1972 graduating class of Jefferson High School.

I must admit, however, that I appear before you this evening with a great deal of personal ambivalence. On the one hand I share your joy - I share your pride - I rejoice with you for having crossed another hurdle in the educational arena. I share your happiness.

On the other, when I reflect upon the society you will be entering, I am saddened. I am saddened when I think about the problems you will inherit. I am saddened when I consider the chore which you must accomplish. Make no mistake about it, you are leaving high school tonight in a time of great crisis and tremendous promise.

The crisis stems from our inability to deal with a variety of pressing issues. The issues involve the desperation of large numbers of people, the agonies of our cities, the desolation of our countryside, and the pollution of the air and water.

Stemming from this crisis is a stormy debate which is currently being waged over the future direction of our society. The relevance of many of the traditional institutions in which we have placed our trust is being questioned. Truly, we are undergoing a social revolution in this country.

A revolution where the powerful are being challenged by the powerless. Where the status quo is being challenged by change. Where the haves are being challenged by the have-nots. It is a revolution without precedent in this country. It is a revolution complicated by the forces of rapid social change, automation, and demands from blacks, browns and reds for freedom now.

This revolution is so significant that no one can afford not to be involved. Morally, no one can be just a spectator, complacently observing the decadence of our nation. Unfortunately, there are too many people who have not become involved. Far too many are only sitting in the audience - not caring - not even recognizing this struggle for survival. I submit to you tonight that the only real choice for us is whether or not we will live by the truth we know, whether you the Jefferson High School Class of 1972, will continue to develop yourself so that you can move to struggle for fundamental transformation, for the creation of new directions, towards a concern for the life and the meaning of man. Social transformation or social destruction, those are our only real choices.

The responsibility for making that decision is yours. You must accept the major responsibility for creating both the atmosphere and the program for fundamental change. The responsibility is yours because you have the talent, the

skills and you believe in the possibility of the emerging of a truly human society for all.

We all must recognize that one of the major problems we have today is the large number of people who do no more than engage in rhetoric. The time for meaningless rhetoric has passed. The time has passed when we can assume that someone else will shoulder the burden for us. Each of us in this room tonight has an obligation and a duty to, in our own individual way, contribute to the social transformation.

You might be asking yourself - what can I do? I am only one person. First of all, recognize the fact that you are a person. You are somebody! Next, become informed. It is your obligation to not only know yourself, but also know the conditions that surround you. Knowledge is indeed power! Never allow yourself to be restricted by the narrow perspective of your immediate environment. Always keep informed of the issues that extend beyond the boundaries of any geographical consideration. To change a system, you must know that system. To alter a course, you must know that course. To avoid the mistakes of the past, you must know the past.

The challenge which confronts you tonight, as you leave and go your individual ways, is unique. You are confronted with a unique opportunity. You and those like you who are graduating from high schools throughout the nation this year, have the opportunity to determine the future of your communities. You have the opportunity to determine the destiny of a nation. And you have the opportunity to guide the destiny of the world.

So my challenge to you tonight is to prepare and develop yourself for the monumental task ahead of you. My challenge to you is to seize the time, for indeed the time is now. My challenge to each and everyone of you is to prepare yourself so that in your own individual manner - with your own capabilities so that 10, 15, 20, 25 years from now you can truly say that this is a better world because I have been here. To do that - to prepare and develop yourself for the task ahead, it is obvious that this is just the beginning.

I came here tonight in a state of ambivalence. Yet, I've looked at those of you who are graduating from Jeff, and I feel the radiation of enthusiasm which suggests to me a commitment on your part to build a better society. It suggests to me a determination on your part to continue your education so that you will be a part of that nation building. And from those vibrations I have become optimistic. Such optimism allows me to take comfort in knowing that in 1972, emerging from Jefferson High School, was a cadre of talent, intelligence and dedication that will eventually take over the leadership of our community.

I take comfort in knowing that you have been exposed to almost a lifetime of war. I know you will want to change that.

I take comfort because I know that during your lifetime you have witnessed the assassination of John -- Malcolm -- Bobby -- and Martin. And I know that you will want to change that.

I take comfort in the fact that during your lifetime we have seen man conquer space, and at the same time continue to witness hunger in America. And I know you will want to change that.

I take comfort in the fact that during your lifetime we have witnessed the explosion of our cities and also the inability or reluctance to correct those conditions that lead to those explosions. And I know you will want to change that.

I take comfort in the fact that you have been exposed to the warning that our nation is two societies - one white - one black - separate but unequal. And I know you will want to change that.

Although I came here tonight in a state of ambivalence I leave with hope. Hoping that you will rise to the challenge and supply us with the guidance necessary to develop a nation out of a nation. So that 10 years from now - when one of you will be the commencement speaker for the Jefferson High School Class of 1982, you can say - we saw a need and we fulfilled it. We saw the time and we seized it. We wanted a nation, so we built it.

And as I leave you tonight - I leave with confidence that this is just the beginning.

Measure eliminates tests

Ballot Measure No. 1, if passed, will eliminate the requirement that every voter must be able, except for physical disability, to read and write the English language. It lowers the minimum voting age from 21 to 18 years of age for all elections in Oregon.

The passage of this measure will bring Oregon law into conformity with the United States Constitution. The 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution, passed in 1971, provides the right to vote to citizens who are 18 years old or older.

The Oregon Constitution provides that voters be able to read and write English, except for physical disability. The Federal Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970 provide that no citizen shall be denied the right to vote because of failure to pass a literacy test. Oregon officially discontinued the use of literacy tests on July 1, 1970 and few tests have been administered in recent years.

Staff members from the Metropolitan Area 4-C Council and its funded programs attended the Northwest Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America in Seattle, April 30 through May 3. The conference, made up of agencies involved in all aspects of child welfare, had as its theme, "Who Speaks for the Child".

Persons attending from the Model Cities area were: Clifford Campbell, Jr., Director of the 4-C Information and Referral Center; Paula Slider, Administrative Assistant; Dorothy Jones, nurse; Karen Yada, Child Development Assistant. Attending from the Albina Ministerial Alliance Family Day and Night Care Program were: Nancy Pampa, Social Worker and Diane Taylor, parent and board member. Lois E. Williams, Administrative Assistant, represented the tri-county office of Metropolitan Area 4-C Council.

Chaplaincy residents

(Continued from page 1)

Education at the federal penitentiary at McNeil Island, Wash., and the Rev. Horace O. Duke Jr., currently enrolled in Emanuel's three-month Clinical Pastoral Care program.

The year-long residency program for chaplains is offered by Emanuel's Department of Religion and Ministry, one of almost 300 clinical pastoral training centers in the U.S. Purpose of the educational program is to prepare ordained clergymen for careers in hospital ministry.

The Rev. Coleman is a clergyman of the Church of God of Anderson, Indiana, a graduate of Warner Pacific College in Portland, and has attended Western Evangelical Seminary at Jennings Lodge, Ore. He is now completing a Master in Education counseling program at Oregon State University.

His previous pastoral experience includes membership on the staff at Maranatha Evangelistic Center as well as several years as pastor of the Community Church of God in Portland - a post he is resigning to enter the Emanuel program. His interest in chaplaincy is complemented by his background of training and experience as a licensed practical nurse in military and civilian employment.

The Rev. Gilmore, a clergyman of the Conservative Baptist Association of America, is a graduate of Cascade College, Portland, and has attended graduate and post-graduate courses at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland. Active in a variety of community programs, the Rev. Gilmore has been Executive Director of the Albina Neighborhood Service Center. Formerly pastor of the Berean Baptist Church, Portland, he launched the Child Care Center and Teen Drop-In program before joining the Bonneville Power Administration to work with the summer youth employment program there.

"We feel unusually fortunate in interest which our chaplaincy education program is generating among clergy-

men, and which permits us to select participants in the program from among such highly-qualified and professionally competent applicants," Dr. Adix said.

The chaplaincy education program at Emanuel, like the more than a dozen other educational programs in health careers offered at Emanuel, is non-denominational and offered to qualified applicants without regard to race, color, or creed. Of the four chaplains selected, only one - the Rev. Anderson - is a clergyman of the Lutheran Church in America, the denomination which sponsors Emanuel Hospital; Rev. Coleman, of the Church of God and Rev. Gilmore, of the Conservative Baptist Assn. of America, are joined by Rev. Duke, from the Southern Baptist Convention.

Students tour

Two Jefferson High School Seniors have been selected to perform with the famous "Young Americans" musical traveling group for the next year.

Velma "Pie" Brunson, 17, who sings, dances and plays the violin, will join with Louis Smith, 17, who also sings and dances, to travel with the Los Angeles based performing group.

Twenty-four 17 to 21 year olds are selected throughout the United States each year by auditions to join this group. While performing with the group they attend colleges or universities in the Los Angeles area.

"Pie" and Louis, the only applicants selected from Oregon this year, have been enrolled in Jefferson's choir, dance or orchestra classes, which are part of the schools' Performing Arts Department. This year Jefferson High School presented the Broadway musical "Your Own Thing" in which "Pie" and Louis co-starred.

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