

EDUCATION FOR FREEDOM

"MAN IS BORN FREE, AND YET WE SEE HIM EVERYWHERE IN CHAINS."

THAT STATEMENT IS AS ACCURATE TODAY AS IT WAS NEARLY 200 YEARS AGO WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN BY JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU. TO THE EXTENT MAN IS MERELY AN ANIMAL HIS FREEDOM IS THE FREEDOM OF A WILD ANIMAL. IRONICALLY, CIVILIZATION AND SOCIETY RESTRICT MAN IN HIS NATURAL, PRIMITIVE FREEDOM. ON THE OTHER HAND, CIVILIZATION AND SOCIETY GIVE MAN AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE FREEDOMS FAR BEYOND THE PRIMITIVE FREEDOM OF A WILD ANIMAL. IT IS A PARADOX OF MAN'S PREDICAMENT THAT CIVILIZATION HAS FREED HIM FROM THE PRIMITIVE RESTRAINTS OF NATURE BUT HAS CHAINED HIM IN MAN-MADE EVILS -- INJUSTICE, PREJUDICE, AND BIGOTRY. THESE EVILS ARE CONCEIVABLE ONLY IN A SOCIETY OF MEN. THE DYNAMICS OF THIS PARADOX WILL BE THE SUBJECT MATTER OF MY DISCOURSE THIS MORNING. WE WILL SEE THAT ADVANCED SOCIETY AND CIVILIZATION HAVE FREED MAN FROM THE ELEMENTS AND NATURE. WE WILL SEE THAT ADVANCED SOCIETY AND CIVILIZATION ARE THE PRODUCTS OF SCIENCE, ENLIGHTENMENT, AND EDUCATION. AND, FURTHER, WE WILL SEE THAT MOST OF THE CHAINS THAT BIND MAN IN MODERN SOCIETY ARE VESTIGES OF MAN'S PRIMITIVE MENTAL CONDITION -- IRRATIONALISM AND SUPERSTITIOUSNESS. THE HOPE FOR TOMORROW IS THAT EDUCATION MAY BE ALLOWED TO, INDEED, FREE MAN.

BEFORE I DEVELOP THESE THOUGHTS A FEW PRELIMINARY REMARKS MUST BE MADE ABOUT THE TWO MOST COMMON MANNERS OF SPEAKING OF FREEDOM. FIRST, FREEDOM IS REGARDED AS THE ABSENCE OF SOMETHING. IN HUMAN RELATIONS WE THINK OF THAT "SOMETHING" AS A RESTRAINT. SECOND, FREEDOM IS REGARDED AS THE POWER OR ABILITY TO DO SOMETHING. THIS ASPECT OF FREEDOM IS INCONCEIVABLE EXCEPT AS AN ATTRIBUTE OF HUMAN BEINGS. FOR THE POWER OR ABILITY TO DO IMPLIES A REASON OR PURPOSE. THUS, ON THE ONE HAND WE THINK OF "FREEDOM

TO DO SOMETHING." IN ANY CASE WHENEVER I SPEAK OF FREEDOM REMEMBER THAT BOTH OF THESE ASPECTS OF FREEDOM ARE RECIPROCALLY AND INTEGRALLY RELATED.

WHEN MAN DESCENDED FROM THE TREE TOPS HE LEFT THE MONKEYS ALOFT. MONKEYS AND OTHER WILD ANIMALS WERE MAN'S RIVAL THEN FOR FOOD, SHELTER, AND SAFETY. MAN WAS NOT AN EQUAL MATCH FOR THE MONKEYS WHILE HE REMAINED IN THE TREES. EVEN THE HORDY CAVEMAN WAS NO REAL COMPETITION FOR THE GORILLA, ALTHOUGH IN APPEARANCE THEY WERE HARDLY DISTINGUISHABLE. MONKEYS WERE "SWINGING" ANTHROPOIDS BEFORE THEY BECAME "SIGNIFYING AS HIPSTERS HAVE SPOKEN" OF THEM IN RECENT YEARS. NOW YOU MIGHT THINK A "SWINGING MAN" IS "WAY OUT:" BUT IN THESE DAYS HE IS MORE LIKELY TO END UP ON HIS BACK THAN TO "GET INTO ORBIT." MAN HAD TO STAND UP ON HIS TWO HIND LEGS AND UTILIZE HIS BRAIN BEFORE HE COULD WIN IN HIS COMPETITION WITH WILD ANIMALS.

THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF HIS BRAIN MAN DEvised VARIOUS INGENIOUS METHODS FOR OUTWITTING WILD ANIMALS. HE DOMESTICATED AND TAMED THE LESS FEROCIOUS. HE MADE FIRST THE STONE AXE AND THEN THE BOW AND ARROW. HE DISCOVERED FIRE AND FOUND MANY USES FOR IT. HE LEARNED TO BUILD HUTS AND OTHER KINDS OF ENCLOSURES AND WITH THE USE OF FIRE HE WAS ABLE TO SHELTER HIMSELF FROM THE HOSTILE ELEMENTS. IN PRIMITIVE TIMES ANOTHER MAN WAS AS MUCH MAN'S NATURAL ENEMY AS THE MAN-EATING TIGER, THE SWINGING MONKEY, AND THE HOSTILE WEATHER. THE MONKEY COULD CLIMB AND SWING BETTER THAN MAN AND THE TIGER COULD RUN AND JUMP BETTER. SO MAN DECIDED TO GET TOGETHER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT "JUMPING CAT" AND THAT "SWINGING ~~MONKEY~~ ^{APE}."

AS MAN LEARNED MORE ABOUT NATURE HE ADVANCED IN HIS DOMINANCY OVER IT. THUS, TODAY ^{many} AMNY OF THE MYSTERIES AND HORRORS OF NATURE HAVE BEEN SOLVED AND OVERCOME. THE SEA IS NAVIGATED SWIFTLY IN SLEEK STEEL SHIPS. THE AIR IS BUT A PROP FOR SUPERSONIC JETS. LAND IS BUT A FLOOR FOR FISH

AND BIRD SHAPED VEHICLES THAT CRASH ABOUT OVER IT AT BREAK NECK AND BACK BREAKING SPEEDS. INNUMERABLE DISEASES ARE BEING CURED BY MEDICAL SCIENCE AND ENLIGHTENED HYGIENE IS PREVENTING THE OCCURRENCE OF MANY OTHERS.

THE PRINTING PRESS, RADIO, TELEVISION, AND WHAT HAVE YOU HAVE PUT MAN IN TOUCH WITH HIS FELLOW MAN NOT ONLY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BUT THROUGHOUT HISTORY. ENLIGHTENMENT HAS BROUGHT US ART AND ART HAS BROUGHT US MOST OF OUR DIVERSION AND ENTERTAINMENT -- NOVELS, POEMS, PLAYS, MUSIC, DANCING, AND THAT MODERN INEXPLICABLE PHENOMENON, ROCK 'N ROLL, WHICH DOES NOT ADMIT OF DEFINITION OR CHARACTERIZATION. SOME PEOPLE SAY ROCK 'N ROLL IS TRASH; OTHERS SAY ITS DIRT; BUT, I SUPPOSE, IF YOU WERE A SHARP, STRAIGHT SHOVEL YOU CAN "DIG" IT. SOME OF YOUR PARENTS AND TEACHERS PROBABLY WOULD LIKE TO BURY IT.

BUT ENLIGHTENMENT BROUGHT MAN MUCH MORE THAN ART, EVEN MORE THAN MAN'S APPRECIATION OF ART. ENLIGHTENMENT BROUGHT MAN RESPECT FOR HIS FELLOW MAN. MAN LEARNED BY WORKING TOGETHER HE COULD CONQUER NATURE AND WILD ANIMALS. HOWEVER, THE CONQUEST OF NATURE OCCUPIED SO MUCH OF HIS TIME THAT HE FORGOT ABOUT HIS FELLOW MAN WHO WAS SO NECESSARY FOR HIS CONQUEST. WHEN HE TURNED HIS SCIENCE AND ENLIGHTENED INTELLECT UPON HIMSELF HE FOUND THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, ENDOWED WITH CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS. WORDS LIKE THOSE IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE USHERED IN A NEW EPOCH IN WHICH MAN'S ASPIRATION BECAME THE ELEVATION OF ALL MEN AMONG MEN WHICH WAS AS IMPORTANT AS ELEVATING MAN OVER NATURE.

MAN'S RECOGNITION OF HIS SELF-RESPECT AND THE DIGNITY OF OTHERS WAS AN ACT OF THE BRAIN, MIND, AND INTELLECT. IT IS MAN'S CAPACITY TO THINK, REMEMBER, AND COMMUNICATE THAT DEFINITELY DISTINGUISHES HIM FROM OTHER ANIMALS. THUS, IT IS NATURAL THAT ONLY THROUGH THE INTELLECT IS MAN ABLE

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TO REALLY APPRECIATE AND RESPECT EACH OTHER. THE NARROW MIND, THE DISEASED BRAIN, AND THE DULL INTELLECT TRANSFORM MAN INTO A GRUNTING, RAVING, AND IGNORANT BIGOT. THE MOST BRUTAL AND GIGANTIC ANIMALS IN HISTORY HAVE NOT SURVIVED BECAUSE THEY HAD STUNTED BRAINS, ENCASED IN SMALL HEADS APPENDED TO GARGANTUAN BODIES -- THE DINOSAURS. THOSE DINOSAURS HAD TREMENDOUS STRENGTH BUT EITHER THEIR BRAINS WERE TOO SMALL OR THEY DID NOT USE WHAT LITTLE GRAY MATTER THEY DID HAVE.

TO A GREAT EXTENT AMERICA IS A MIGHTY DINOSAUR. WITH ITS SCIENTIFIC MUSCLES FLEXED, WITH ITS ARROGANT ESTEEM FOR WHAT IT HAS DONE SO FAR, WITH ITS CONTEMPT FOR ANY NATION OR GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT IS NOT WHITE, WITH ITS MIND HALF-CLOSED TO THE DIGNITY OF MAN IN GENERAL, IT IS IN DIRE DANGER OF DESTRUCTION. IT TALKS ABOUT THE UNIVERSALITY OF MAN, BUT ONLY INCLUDES THE CAUCASIAN IN ITS UNIVERSE OF DISCOURSE. THE NEGRO IS TREATED AS IF HE IS A RIVAL ENEMY OR ADVERSARY. THUS, HE HAS LOST SIGHT OF THE COLLECTIVE GOOD OF MAN AND HAS PARTIALLY ESTRANGED THE BULK OF MANKIND WHICH IS COLORED. EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT HAVE NEVER BEEN IN SUCH DESPERATE NEED.

SCIENCE, A PRODUCT OF EDUCATION, FREED MAN FROM THE RAVAGES OF NATURE. SCIENCE SET A STALWART SHIELD BETWEEN MAN AND THE ELEMENTS. SCIENCE FREED MAN FROM HIS NATURAL ENEMIES. IN SUMMARY WE MIGHT SAY THE FIRST PRODUCT OF EDUCATION WAS TO FREE THE BODY.

THE PRESSING OBJECTIVE OF EDUCATION TODAY IS TO FREE MAN'S MIND FROM THE PREJUDICES AND OTHER VICES WHICH PREVENT HIM FROM REALIZING HIS HUMAN DESTINY. FREEDOM IS BASIC TO DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION IS BASIC TO BOTH; FOR

"THE DEMOCRATIC FAITH IS FAITH IN MAN, FAITH IN EVERY MAN, FAITH THAT MAN, IF HE IS WELL ENOUGH EDUCATED AND WELL ENOUGH INFORMED, CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY HIS OWN AGGREGATION."

WE NEED TO BE FREED FROM DISCRIMINATION -- THAT UNCHRISTIAN HERESY THAT VALUES A MAN FOR THE COLOR OF HIS SKIN RATHER THAN THE STRENGTH OF HIS CHARACTER. DISCRIMINATION IS A MANIFESTATION OF IGNORANCE; THEREFORE, OUR VESTED INTEREST IN EDUCATION IS NOT JUST THE BETTER POSITION IT MIGHT PERSONALLY PLACE US IN BUT EACH EDUCATED PERSON RAISES THE GENERAL LEVEL OF EDUCATION. *Ignorance like a disease. Education like a curative power.* WE NEED TO BE FREED FROM THE EXTERNAL RESTRAINTS OF BIGOTRY, RACE HATRED, SECOND CLASS CITIZENSHIP, AND SEGREGATION. THESE THINGS ARE THE PRODUCTS OF IGNORANCE AND THE LACK OF SOUND EDUCATION. IT IS OFTEN SAID YOU MUST FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE; BUT I SUGGEST IN THIS CASE YOU USE WATER, FOR SURELY THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE SINCE THE CIVIL WAR HAS NOT BEEN DUE TO OUR IGNORANCE BUT BECAUSE MANY OF US HAVE BECOME EDUCATED AND QUALIFIED SO WE COULD WAGE OUR BATTLE FOR FREEDOM. THINK OF OUR GREATEST LEADERS IN THE LAST TWO GENERATIONS AND YOU WILL REFLECT UPON MEN DISTINGUISHED MUCH BY THEIR SUPERIOR EDUCATION OVER THE REST OF US. OUR CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION ARE MARKED FOR THEIR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. YOU CANNOT JUSTIFIABLY HOPE TO MAKE MUCH HEADWAY IN IT WITHOUT BEING SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICALLY TRAINED. ONLY EDUCATION CAN SWEEP AWAY MANY OF THE BARRIERS TO OUR PROGRESS.

POVERTY AND IGNORANCE ARE RESTRAINTS THAT DEFINITELY LIMIT MAN IN THE RANGE OF HIS POSSIBLE ACTIVITY. POVERTY BREEDS IGNORANCE AND IGNORANCE BREEDS POVERTY. HOW CAN ONE GET OUT OF THIS VICIOUS CIRCLE? THROUGH EDUCATION!

BY ACQUIRING THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL FOR A VOCATION OR PROFESSION ONE IS ABLE TO EARN A LIVELIHOOD. ONE CANNOT VERY SUCCESSFULLY PURSUE A PROFESSION OR VOCATION WHO IS NOT EDUCATED. IN THIS CONNECTION MANY OF THE BARRIERS WHICH WE THINK ARE EXTERNAL ARE REALLY INTERNAL. SO MANY OF US ARE UNQUALIFIED OR UNINFORMED. WHEN THIS IS THE CASE WE NEED NOT SO MUCH TO BE FREED FROM EXTERNAL RESTRAINTS AS FROM INTERNAL INADEQUACIES. WE NOT ONLY MUST UNSCHACKLE THE CHAINS THAT BIND US BUT ALSO PURGE OURSELVES OF THE IGNORANCE THAT PARALYZES US.

THE BODY MUST NOT ONLY BE FREED FROM PHYSICAL, EXTERNAL RESTRAINTS; BUT THE MIND MUST BE FREED FROM INTERNAL RESTRAINTS. IN OTHER WORDS, WE MUST BE FREE TO DO SOMETHING. EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY HAS AS ITS OBJECTIVE TO REMOVE EXTERNAL RESTRAINTS. IF I MAY DIGRESS A LITTLE I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT EQUALITY AND JUSTICE ARE CLOSELY RELATED. JUSTICE OFTEN MEANS EQUAL TREATMENT BEFORE THE LAW. OF COURSE, THIS IS NOT ALWAYS SUFFICIENT BECAUSE TO SAY A MILLIONAIRE AND A HEGGAR WILL BE EQUALLY PUNISHED FOR SLEEPING UNDER A BRIDGE OR UPON A PARK BENCH IS MEANINGLESS. ONE MUST BE IN A POSITION TO REALLY BE ABLE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CHOICE BETWEEN ALTERNATIVES. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE MUST BE CERTAIN SUBJECTIVE QUALIFICATIONS AND PERSONAL ASSETS TO MAKE EQUALITY OF TREATMENT SUBSTANTIAL JUSTICE RATHER THAN JUSTICE ONLY IN FORM.

"FREEDOM FROM" IS PRACTICALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM "FREEDOM TO." THE PREPOSITION REALLY IS NOT THE IMPORTANT THING. YET SUBJECTIVE QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERNAL POWERS GIVE "FREEDOM TO" REAL MEANING. YOU MAY BE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION ON A JOB AS FAR AS YOUR COLOR IS CONCERNED AND YET YOU MAY NOT BE FREE TO DO THE JOB. IN THIS SENSE I AM NOT FREE TO OPERATE

UPON SICK PEOPLE, NOT BECAUSE I AM COLORED BUT BECAUSE I AM NOT A QUALIFIED DOCTOR. *Physician* I DO NOT HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE OR SKILLS OF A DOCTOR. THERE IS VERY LITTLE YOU ARE FREE TO DO IF YOU DO NOT HAVE KNOWLEDGE. MY MAIN POINT AGAIN IS THAT THE LIMITATION UPON OUR FREEDOM HERE IS NOT PRIMARILY EXTERNAL BUT INTERNAL.

AS A GROUP IN AMERICA WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING? WE HAVE BEEN DOCTORS, LAWYERS, TEACHERS, AND PREACHERS. OBVIOUSLY, I DO NOT INTEND TO SUGGEST THESE ARE BAD PROFESSIONS; BUT "TO BE FREE TO DO" MEANS TO BE QUALIFIED TO A CERTAIN EXTENT. WE ARE NOT FREE TO DO ENGINEERING BECAUSE THERE ARE NOT MANY OF US EDUCATED IN ENGINEERING. OUR BUSINESS ENTERPRISES ARE ~~SADLY~~ LIMITED BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT BUSINESS. WE MUST BECOME EDUCATED IN ACCOUNTING, MARKETING, PRODUCTION, AND OTHER ASPECTS OF BUSINESS. THERE ARE NOT TOO MANY BARRIERS TO A SCIENTIFIC CAREER BUT WE ARE NOT FREE TO OPERATE HERE BECAUSE THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ENOUGH OF US SEEKING SCIENTIFIC TRAINING. TO BE FREE TO DO MEANS TO BE QUALIFIED TO DO AND UP TO NOW WE HAVE ONLY QUALIFIED OURSELVES BY AND LARGE IN A FEW VOCATIONS OR PROFESSIONS. SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE ARE STILL SO SCARCE THAT EVEN WHERE THERE ARE EXTERNAL RESTRAINTS THEY CRUMBLE BEFORE COMPETENCE AND EFFICIENCY.

THE GREAT GAINS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE TO A LARGE EXTENT ARE THE PRODUCTS OF ELOQUENT AND COMPETENT ADVOCACY IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES. IN THE LAST TWO DECADES THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ELOQUENT AND COMPETENT COLORED ADVOCATES. THE IMPORTANT JUDICIAL DECISIONS IN RECENT YEARS WHICH HAVE DONE MOST FOR THE VINDICATION OF NEGRO RIGHTS HAVE HAD NEGRO ADVOCATES. THIS SUGGESTS THAT IN OTHER AREAS THE NEGRO WILL GET MORE OF WHAT HE IS DUE IF

HIS BROTHERS ARE QUALIFIED, TRAINED, AND PUSHING HIS INTEREST. I THINK THIS WILL PECULIARLY BE THE CASE IN BUSINESS, COMMERCE, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. IN OTHER WORDS, IN ORDER TO GAIN WHAT IS DUE US WE MUST PRODUCE MEN OF SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE IN ALL AREAS.

THE HORIZON BEFORE YOU IS NOT OBSTRUCTED BY MANY OF THE SNARES AND IMPEDIMENTS OF THE PAST. EACH TERM OF THE SUPREME COURT IS AN OCCASION FOR STRIKING DOWN SOME IRRATIONAL STUMBLING BLOCK FOR THE NEGRO. THE PRIMITIVE FRONTIER THAT IS STILL BEFORE US IS VULNERABLE TO THE AXE OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL. BECAUSE OF OUR COLOR NOT ONLY MUST WE BE MORE QUALIFIED AND SKILLED BUT MORE OF US HAVE TO BE MORE QUALIFIED AND SKILLED. I AM PROUD TO BE A PART OF A PROFESSION WHICH HAS ALLOWED MANY OF US TO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN CUTTING DOWN MANY OF OUR OBSTRUCTIONS. SOME OF YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE CLEANING-UP OPERATIONS.

PRIMITIVE IRRATIONALISM AND IGNORANT SUPERSTITION STILL SLOW DOWN OUR ADVANCE. OUR BEST WEAPONS ARE RATIONALITY, KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND INTELLIGENCE. IN SHORT, EDUCATION IS THE MEANS TO OUR FREEDOM.

MANY ARE NEEDED; BUT FEW ARE QUALIFIED. THE MAP IS LAID OUT AND THE TERRAIN OF OUR DESTINY IS CLEAR. ARE WE FAMILIAR WITH THE MAP? DO WE KNOW THE TERRAIN? OUR PEOPLE CAN ONLY FIND AND REACH ITS PROPER POSITION IN HISTORY IF IT IS EDUCATED. INDIVIDUALLY WE CAN ONLY REALIZE THE POTENTIAL ABUNDANCE OF LIFE IF WE ARE EDUCATED AND HAVE CULTIVATED MINDS -- EDUCATED AND CULTIVATED MINDS NOT ONLY FOR FREEDOM BUT FOR THE RICH ENJOYMENT OF LIFE.

Suggested Guide for Career Conference Speakers

Emmett Scott High School

I. Description of the Vocation

- A. Nature of the work-hours, working conditions
- B. Attractive features--associations, social status, pensions
- C. Undesirable resources--hazards-strains
- D. Present outlook--Demand and supply

II. Requirements of the Vocation

- A. Education and Training-amount, nature, time and expense

- 1. School subjects most essential
- 2. Skills and ability most needed
- 3. Recommendations of where to obtain training, credentials, licenses

- B. Personal Qualifications

Mental ability, personality types, special interests, appearance, age, sex, ability to get along with people, ability to lead other people, common sense or good judgment, neatness, initiative, resourcefulness, punctuality, perseverance, industrious and thoroughness.

- C. Physical Qualifications

Any special demands upon nerves, lungs, feet, endurance, vision.

III. Rewards of the Vocation

- A. Financial-pay scale or reasonable income
 - 1. How paid, salary, commission, wage, bonus.
- B. Security-pensions, retirement allowance, tenure
- C. Possibility of transfer to related vocations
- D. Opportunity for advancement-promotions
- E. Personal service to others, associations, prestige, self-expression.

IV. How to get Started in Vocation

- A. Where to apply
- B. Sources of further information on vocation