

BRIEFING
Stevenson Tribute Day Program

Five single rooms are being held for Gov. Kerner and party at Waldorf Astoria, Wednesday, August 25. It is my understanding that the Governor's party will include, in addition to the Governor, Gene Graves, Ralph Newman, Paul Butler, and Michael Butler.

Police wagon with two troopers, plus limousine, will meet party at Butler Aviation Terminal, LaGuardia, Wednesday afternoon. (Arrival time to be confirmed from Washington.)

Thursday, August 26

9:30 AM Governor and party depart Waldorf Astoria with same vehicles, arrive New Amsterdam Gate No. 2, World's Fair, approximately 10:30.

11:00 AM Lincoln Theater, Illinois Pavilion - Stevenson Memorial Tribute. Ralph Newman opens program, introduces Robert Moses as World's Fair host.

Newman introduces Gov. Kerner.

Gov. Kerner's remarks, and introduction of Dr. Ralph Bunche. (Bunche's remarks unconfirmed.)

Gov. Kerner introduces Ambassador Goldberg for 10 minute remarks.

Newman introduces Rev. Grabel for prayer.

Program concludes with showing of "Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln."

NOTE: Governor's remarks to be prepared by Newman.

Press Note: WGN has arranged for sound filming of program, in addition to radio taping. At least two New York radio stations will be taping. All press representatives assigned to World's Fair plan to cover. Pavilion has retained UPI commercial photographer for special assignment.

• 12:00 noon Dedication Ceremony in Exit Hall of Pavilion. (1) Dedication of photographic and text panel in Gallery of Illinois Greats. (Panel consists of a blow-up of Karsh photo, and extracts from Gov. Kerner's eulogy delivered at the State Capitol rotunda in Springfield.) Borden Stevenson and Gov. Kerner will participate. Platform available for Gov. and Borden to stand above audience. No formal remarks suggested. Primarily for photographic coverage. (2) Dedication of display of Stevenson documents. Gov. Kerner and Borden Stevenson will again dedicate, move across Exit Hall to second platform in front of glass case. Also for photo coverage.

NOTE: Four panels of Stevenson documents will be on display: (1) Stevenson's Inaugural Address as Governor of Illinois, 1949; (2) Stevenson's speech on Lincoln at Gettysburg, November 19, 1950--the "four score and seven years" anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. The speech will be reprinted and distributed to the guests at the ceremonies; (3) Stevenson's acceptance speech for the presidential nomination, 1952, and Stevenson's concession speech after defeat by Eisenhower; and (4) Stevenson's unpublished tribute to Dag Hammarskjöld delivered in Upsala, Sweden, September 18, 1961.

12:30 PM Governor's informal buffet luncheon in Conference Room of U.S. Pavilion opposite Illinois Pavilion. No assigned seats or tables. Suggest Governor lead buffet line, or at least set the informal theme. Suggested remarks at appropriate point in luncheon include thank you to Ambassador Winston, Commissioner of U.S. Pavilion, for making facilities available.

NOTE: Ambassador Goldberg cannot attend luncheon, nor can Robert Moses.

3:00 (estimated) Tribute Ceremonies conclude with luncheon. No special tour of Fairgrounds offered. Guests will be on their own after luncheon. Limousine and trooper wagon standing; by at Gate 2 to bring Governor's party to LaGuardia for return to Chicago.

If time permits, New Jersey Pavilion requests opportunity to present Gov. Kerner with their tercentennial medal, which they failed to present on Illinois Day earlier this year. Apparently Gov. Kerner is not being singled out for a special award, since the medal has been given to all participating governors this year. I suggest a 15-minute stop at the New Jersey Pavilion following luncheon.

Attached is a partial list of guests who have accepted, to provide an indication of the stature of those involved. 200 are expected at luncheon.

LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG

An Address Four Score and Seven Years Later

by

ADLAI E. STEVENSON



Printed for Distribution on the Occasion of

ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION DAY, LINCOLN THEATRE

ILLINOIS PAVILION, NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR

26 August 1965

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ADLAI E. STEVENSON

On November 19, 1950, four score and seven years after Abraham Lincoln delivered his immortal address at Gettysburg, Adlai E. Stevenson spoke at special ceremonies commemorating the event, held at the Chicago Historical Society. To dramatize the special nature of the meeting, the five manuscript copies of Lincoln's address, all in his own handwriting, had been brought together for the first time. The Governor of Illinois spoke to an audience consisting of members of the Society, distinguished Illinoisans, and Lincoln scholars.

Lincoln's address at Gettysburg four score and seven years ago has special meaning today. For it was a plea to Americans to reaffirm their faith in democracy. Then, as now, democracy was sorely threatened. Then, as now, American boys were pouring out their life blood to preserve democracy. Then, as now, while some gave "the last full measure of devotion," others complained that the burden was too crushing—that the management was bad and success doubtful.

Lincoln had a broad conception of the Civil War. He saw it in global dimensions. It was not only the American Union that was imperilled. Upon the fate of the Union hung the fate of world democracy.

In Lincoln's time the United States was the only major country of the world that enjoyed the democratic form of government, the only land where government was of, by, and for the people. Elsewhere, emperors or kings or oligarchies controlled, often exploiting the common people. Our government was unique and still regarded as an experiment. America was democracy's proving ground. The masses of other lands looked to us with hope; if our experiment proved successful, they too might win self-government. But the hereditary privileged groups, regarding our democratic experiment with foreboding, identified it with mob rule and lawlessness, sneered and prophesied its doom. When civil war

created the disruption of the United States, the enemies of democracy were singly pleased. They could cry, "We told you so," as government of the people seemed about to prove a false hope.

But Lincoln resolved that government of the people must not fail. The mission of America was to demonstrate its superiority; Lincoln was a man of peace. A brother's war seemed frightful to him. Yet he realized that what America stood for was worth bloodshed and sacrifice.

As Lincoln saw the issue, the Confederate states had rejected two fundamental precepts of democracy. First, in refusing to accept him as their President and making his election their justification for withdrawing from the Union, they had violated the first rule of democratic government, the obligation of a minority to abide by the result of an election. Without such acquiescence democracy would not work. The Union must never be dissolved for any such reason as this.

Second, in making slavery the foundation stone of their new government, the Confederates were renouncing the doctrine of the equal rights of man in favor of the creed of the master race, an idea that Lincoln abhorred. "The last, best hope of earth," in his view, was to be found in those precepts of our Declaration of Independence which affirmed that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Here, in fact, was the whole pith and substance of Lincoln's political philosophy. Here, in his deep reverence for the rights of man as proclaimed in our American charter of freedom, is to be found the explanation of most of his political actions. "I have never had a feeling politically," he said, "which did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence." It was these principles, Lincoln believed, that would lift artificial weights from men's shoulders, clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all, and afford all an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life.

When we realize that Lincoln saw the threatened disruption of the Union as a threat to democratic government throughout the world, his words at Gettysburg become more meaningful. Chancellorville, Antietam, Chickamauga and Gettysburg were deciding more than the fate of these United States. American boys were dying for all people everywhere.

So when Lincoln was asked to speak at the dedication of the national cemetery at Gettysburg, he welcomed the chance to tell the people what those three days of bloody battle meant and to explain what those men died for, as he saw it.

His thoughts went back four score and seven years to the revolutionary founding of this nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Then his mind came back to the war being fought to determine whether that nation, or any nation conceived in revolution and dedicated to such radical principles, could long endure — whether the people were capable of shaping their own destiny. He thought of the heroic dead, and of what the living owed them for their sacrifice. Mere words were inadequate to express it. The world, he thought, would little note nor long remember what was said that day. Then he looked ahead—not merely to the tomorrow, but into the far distant future, as he said: "It is for us, the living, rather to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that task for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The war ended. The nation, reunited, once again offered hope for liberal yearnings everywhere. Inspired by the example of America, democracy made striking headway throughout the world, even among the so-called backward people of the earth. It seemed that the principles for which Lincoln fought and died would win world-wide acceptance. The people of America took this for granted. To us it became merely a question of when and how. America became complaisant. She lost sight of her mission. Too often, she took a selfish, limited view, ignoring the struggle of other people to shape their own affairs and win more of life's blessings for themselves.

Then came the shock of World War I. But with victory, democracy took up its march again. Russia, most reactionary of all European countries, set up a people's government. Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, became republics. Woodrow Wilson, who saw the fate of democracy as the prime issue of the war, went to Europe with a purpose to mark out new boundaries which would express, as nearly as possible, the people's will. Democracy was again in the ascendant. And America shrouded herself in isolation.

The rest is within the recollection of us all. Adolph Hitler resurrected the malevolent doctrine of the master race, and poised its ghastly death's-head over Europe. And now comes Russian Communism, threatening political thralldom through enslavement of men's minds, stalking democracy throughout the world.

The struggle for human liberty goes on. It must be re-fought by every generation, for democracy is threatened not alone by foreign ideologies, but by selfishness, indifference, intolerance, demagoguery and disloyalty to public trust right here at home. Lincoln's fight is not finished. The far future into which he looked is here, and we are now the living. Four score and seven years after he uttered these immortal words, it is for us to be re-dedicated to our democratic faith. It is for us, the living to be here dedicated to the great task, the same task, remaining before us.