

the United Nations. He gave this speech in his capacity as American Ambassador to the United Nations, a position he discharged with characteristic enthusiasm and dedication. This speech is a moving exhortation to devote our work to decreasing human suffering and to advancing the progress of mankind:

REMARKS BY ALLARD LOWENSTEIN TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. JEFF KAMEN: No matter what our faith, when the holiday season arrives, we are all either motivated by or, at the very least, reminded of open-hearted warmth and sincerity. And so it is altogether fitting that representing the United States of America at this function is a man who, as a member of the United States Congress and as American Ambassador to the United Nations, has come to be known for that kind of open-hearted warmth and sincerity. Ambassador Lowenstein.

His Excellency Mr. ALLARD LOWENSTEIN, Ambassador of the United States: This is the year of remarkable contrasts. Soon we will start the thirtieth anniversary celebrations of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which, pursuant to the Charter, is designed to assure the world that there will be a decrease in the suffering that people endure. Most people are born into a life of unremitting difficulty and perish before they have the opportunity to enjoy any of those advantages which, paradoxically, are available now in a way unparalleled in the whole human experience.

At the same time that this thirtieth anniversary comes and that people are beginning to acknowledge the finiteness of the planet itself, we find ourselves in so many ways trapped in an impasse that seems to be endless and which seems to be leading to an end to the whole planet. The arms race escalates, the tensions and hatreds escalate, the sense of frustration over dealing with the despoiling of the planet increases. I am struck by the incapacity of people functioning as diplomats to remember that they are people first and diplomats second, so that they can reach to each other and figure out ways that they can resolve dilemmas to the mutual advantage of the whole human race.

So I hope that in this programme commemorating the holidays and the international sense of renewal, that there will also come to people the realization that much more is necessary than the repetition of the Declaration or the Charter or past expressions of hope or brotherhood. Much more than that has to happen, or we will continue plummeting towards this extraordinary conclusion, at the very moment we should be rising toward the fulfilment of our greatest hopes. I think that if people in this season simply remember how much they have to learn from one another, how much they have to give to one another, and how much they lose by despoiling one another, that perhaps the spirit represented by the President's new leadership in human rights and by Andy Young's remarkable efforts around the world to find common denominators for human beings to work together, that perhaps this spirit will grow and flourish. If a Sadat can go to Jerusalem, there ought to be no reason why anyone can't go anywhere in the hope that somehow together we can create an atmosphere in which we can break out of this deadlock that has made the human experience so difficult for so long.

I suppose that the ultimate statement for me, and for many others who have heard it, on the question of how we can live together better was made almost ten years ago. It

bears some repetition on this occasion. So I would like to finish my comments in this period of renewal by reading once again from Robert Kennedy on the occasion of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, at a time when our own country was suffering from its most divisive and difficult period in this century. Robert Kennedy spoke of what happens when violence destroys the lives of human beings—in that case, a human being of such transcendent significance to the whole world. And then he finished his remarks this way. He said:

"There is another kind of violence, slower, but just as deadly, destructive as the shot or the bomb or the knife, and that is the violence of institutions: indifference, inaction, slow decay. That is the violence that afflicts the poor, that poisons relations between men because their skins have different colors. That is the slow destruction of a child by hunger, by schools without books and homes without heat in the winter; until we learn at the last to look at our brothers as aliens, men with whom we share a city, but not a community, men bound to us in common dwelling, but not in common effort. And then we learn to share only a common fear, only a common desire to retreat from each other, only a common impulse to meet disagreement with force. What we need is not division or hatred or violence or lawlessness, but what Martin Luther King had come to personify: love and wisdom and compassion toward one another and a feeling of justice toward all those who still suffer, whether they be white or whether they be black.

"My favorite poet was Aeschylus, who wrote, 'In our sleep, pain which we cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until in our own despair and against our will comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.' Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago, 'To tame the savageness of man and to make gentle the life of this world.' Let us dedicate ourselves to that same prayer for our country and for all people."

Impelled not just by the maxims of religious tradition, not just by the rhetoric of Constitutions, but by the common sense of a race heading at full speed towards its own extermination, I would hope that we could take to heart what it is that Robert Kennedy spoke about ten years ago.

At the end of the Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, the Ambassador from Senegal arose and spoke to all of us. He said, "I hope that as we leave this session and this building," (which was the League of Nations building, in which the statesmen of the world were discussing international traffic signs at the very moment that Hitler began trying to conquer the world), "we might all turn back for just one moment and look at the building and ask not, 'What have I done for my government?' but 'What have I done for mankind?'" It seems to me that this would be a fitting way for all of us who represent countries in this building to act. Thank you. ●

ALLARD LOWENSTEIN

SPEECH OF

HON. TED WEISS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1980

Mr. WEISS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for inclusion in the Record a speech given 2 years ago by Allard Lowenstein on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in