

The call is noteworthy in that it proceeds not from any outcry upon the part of the Jews themselves but from a profound sense of justice animating prominent non-Jews of both political parties. The call is the spontaneous result of a feeling upon the part of the rank and file of our Christian fellow citizens that to leave things as they were would be an act of political injustice.

To those who are doubtful or cynical as to the progress of American civilization I specially commend this session as a complete answer to the doubts which occasionally arise and find expression as to the existence of any real progress towards the goal of real broadminded civilization.

Steady and sure, at least in Maryland, has been the line of progress. Starting in 1649 with the Act of Toleration, granting religious freedom to all Christians, advancing in the Nineteenth Century as a result of Kennedy's spirited leadership past the barrier that held back the Jewish people from the right of suffrage, through constitutional changes designed to permit all men to hold office, we find ourselves now in that stage where men, themselves unaffected in their rights and therefore acting from unselfish motives, have gone out of their way not to grant new rights but to see that rights already in existence are exercised freely and without strain.

I would be singularly lacking in appreciation if I did not voice my personal gratification as well as the satisfaction of my people as such at this latest evidence of the regard of our Christian neighbors. To those then who are responsible for the calling of this session and to you who have come from the mountains, the farms and the shores in order to carry out the intent and purpose of the call, I tender my heartfelt thanks.

To my appreciation of your present attitude let me add, while the opportunity presents itself, my profound thanks for the many courtesies extended to me personally in the past. This, as far as I can see, will be the last time in my career when my voice will be heard in this Chamber. The time has come when I shall surrender the seat which has been so dear to me and remove permanently from this scene in which I have played a part for so many fruitful years. I can truthfully say that in the many years I have been in this Chamber I have never consciously attempted to injure a living soul, nor have I borne, nor do I bear, any feeling of re-