

## SPEECH TO THE NATION

As I stand before you I think of the words of Socrates at his Trial. He saw himself as a Gadfly attached to a very generous horse. Rather slow because of its bigness and in need of being waked up.

There is a belief in the nation that this house has become detached from the people and its members seek only the improvement of their situation in the power that it offers.

There are of course those who recognise that much sincere commitment is made by many members.

As I scan the pages of the History of this Nation I am mindful of the great sacrifices that have been made over the centuries by Men and Women of every station.

Of the cost of winning our Freedoms of Speech, Thought, Religion, and Democracy, no one looking at this nation at this time can doubt the Need of our Nation.

Any Englishman, who has a Heart for his Nation, will be in despair at its present plight. The need to find it's true identity it's future it's vision has never been more clear. Without a Vision the People perish.

From Ethelbert to John Ball, on to Thomas Cranmer and then to John Pym and on to that first Parliamentarian Oliver Cromwell.

Robert Walpole, Burke, Wilberforce, Pitt. Peel, Disraeli, Gladstone, Lloyd George, Winston Churchill.

They believed passionately and lived to the honour of their belief.

The standards and Freedoms we enjoy were paid for in the lives of these and others. The last War resulted in a generation of youth giving their lives for the freedoms of today. What have we done with that freedom won at such a great cost.

Interviewed last year on B.B.C. radio was an old soldier who said "had I known what would have been done with the Freedom we fought for I would not have gone to fight".

At Gettysburg the people were reminded that "It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have so nobly advanced.

It is for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us that from these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause 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 the government of the people by the people for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Betrayed by those who thought it right to turn that freedom into license?  
Who considered that personal gain came above the common good.

Virtue springs not from possessions but from virtue springs possessions and all other human blessings whether for the individual or for society who sought their own advancement as a right to be gained rather than a future to be earned.

Demosthenes stated at his trial "Two qualities, men of Athens, every citizen of ordinary worth ought to possess. He should both maintain in office the purpose of a firm mind and the course suited to his country's pre-eminence, and on all occasions and in all his actions the spirit of patriotism. This belongs to our nature, victory and might are under the dominion of another power".

The better things have been squandered at the altar of self.  
And so what of we who have the responsibility for today and tomorrow. Blessed are they  
READ: MATTHEW Chapter 5.

Are we to look back and see that the value of History is to teach us for the future.

To learn the lessons from those who stood, not only in our own land, but across the world as those who had the vision and the resolve to make society improved for all.

When Wilberforce made his stand he was a very sick man but his resolve was such that he persuaded others to take up the cause he espoused not only to take up but to fight and fight again until the victory was achieved. His Victory came one month after his death.

We are called to be successful but faithful to our beliefs.

Churchill seeing the need turned not from the scene but clearly decisively stated his belief and resolve. Only those who lived in that day can know the fear that pervaded this land with the threat of invasion and the loss of freedom at the hands of a tyrant.

In 1940 seeing and acknowledging the situation he offered a resolution "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat".

How different in this hour of National need the offer we are made. "We will cut your taxes improve your standard of living make life easier". There is clearly a need for Leadership that puts before us all, in simple terms the need of the hour and the resolution of our difficulties, in a way that stirs in us the best of Human Desires.

Fear again walks our land in many guises, of attack on our streets, drugs being peddled to our young people, nine out of ten young people in the next twenty years will be involved in the drug culture so said a leading Police chief.

Fear of family break up over three million children living in single parent families missing the security that should be their right. Missing the love of two parents and having no clear role model.

Fear of unemployment for the young and fear of rejection in the older workforce. Fear of the loss of home of Family and more importantly loss of respect. Fear that strangles imagination dulls the senses and establishes a deep sense of distress, shown in the frightening increases in suicides amongst young men.

The dull sense that lead young people into crime drug and drink abuse to seek an escape only to become prisoners.

Here lies, Mr. Speaker, some of the greatest dangers in our Nation. They are recognised by many and need to become the concern of all before they Herald the collapse of our society. People are now speaking daily in these terms.

No one is to blame only ourselves! if we have allowed this situation to develop without raising our voices or becoming involved in action that could have averted this situation.

For too long the lessons of the past have been unheeded.

The race for individual improvement at any cost.

Encouraged to consider ones own needs at the exclusion of others.

The price has always to be paid by someone at sometime. The price we are paying results in the dulling of the national desire for those things that are best for the most of our people.

Leadership is called to react to the long term Needs and Aspirations and not the short term expediencies.

Martin Luther King is reported by his wife to have taught his children that If you have nothing in your life worth dying for then you have nothing worth living for.

That is the spirit that is called for in these days.

We require the leadership that calls for the dedication to seek first the common good. The Despondency the Fear and Frustration that the Nation labours under is clear.

All parts are affected with then and you nay observe the groans and complaints of all.

When addressing this house on the 3rd June 1628 Sir John Eliot said, "Our Ancient English virtues being the Sincerity of Faith, having once made Friends with Heaven, Having maturity of councils, Sufficiency of Generals, Incorruption of Officers, Liberty of the people, Repletion of the Treasury, Sufficiency of Provision will secure us. He might have spoken these words today.

This reminder is given by King James 1 "The Higher we are placed the greater our fall be, the taller the trees the more in danger of the wind and the tempest beats fiercest upon the highest mountains.

Vaclav Havel in his first speech as President in 1990 reminded his listeners as follows. MASARK based his politics on morality. Let us try in a new time and in a new way to restore this concept to politics.

Let us teach ourselves and others that politics should be an expression of a desire to contribute to the happiness of the community than a need to cheat or rape the community.

Let us teach ourselves and others that politics can be not only the art of the possible, especially if this means the art of speculation, intrigue, secret deals and pragmatic manoeuvring but that it can even be the art of the impossible, namely, the art of improving ourselves and the world.

We all understand there is no easy way. None of us acting alone can achieve success. We must therefore act as a united people for national building.

Leadership needs to set out before us the situation. Not based on political bias but in terms and expressions that reaches the heart and understanding.

Let us pray and work to this goal.

The N.O.O.N prayer brings all this into focus.