
Address by Hon. James A. Farley

Chairman of the Board
The Coca-Cola Export Corporation

Dawn Patrol Breakfast sponsored
by the Eoy Scouts of America, over
Radio Station WJZ, Waldorf-Astoria
Hotel, New York City, Wednesday
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BY

HON. JAMES A. FARLEY

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following address of Hon. James A. Farley, chairman of the board, the Coca-Cola Export Corp., at the dawn-patrol breakfast sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America, over radio station WJZ, Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York, Wednesday morning, January 8, 1947:

INTRODUCTION BY HON. HARRY J. DELANEY, CHAIRMAN, BUSINESSMEN'S COMMITTEE

Mr. DELANEY. Honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, we all know Jim Farley—if I may be permitted to address him publicly in the way that we all affectionately refer to him in our private conversations—as one of the Nation's stalwarts who has valiantly fought to keep America in the path that has made her great.

Likewise, we know that he never loses an opportunity to speak up for those causes which join with the church, the school and the home to work for the protection and betterment of youth. It is for these reasons that we thought he was the very best person whom we could ask to help us launch this million-dollar drive for the expansion of the Boy Scouts of America in Greater New York.

It is with the greatest of personal pleasure, and with keen appreciation of his coming here this morning to address our dawn patrol breakfast, that I present to you the former Postmaster General of the United States—and a friend of youth—the Honorable James A. Farley.

ADDRESS OF HON. JAMES A. FARLEY

I needed a Boy Scout bugler to rouse me out of bed so that I'd be here on time for this dawn patrol breakfast. It is a great tribute to Scouting, and to your interest, that so many of you have come here this morning at this early hour.

There is nothing more worthy of your losing sleep over than a concern for youth, especially for those thousands of New York City boys who should be, but are not, getting the worthwhile training and enjoying wholesome activities provided by the Boy Scouts of America.

Raising a million dollars for the furtherance and expansion of Scouting in Greater New York should be relatively easy if you will just pass on to other civic-minded New Yorkers word of the splendid work the Boy Scout movement is doing for the boys of this city, and let them know how imperative it

is that adequate funds be provided to enable you to carry on and to reach more boys.

Last Saturday morning, I read in my newspaper where three 16-year-old youths had been surprised while committing a hold-up. One of the youthful bandits was killed in the desperate gun battle which ensued, and a detective was wounded. The frequency with which such acts of criminal violence are happening is merely one more evidence of the increasing prevalence of juvenile delinquency which is attributable, in part, to the era of bloodshed from which the world is only now beginning to emerge.

Following every major war, the civilized world has seen such periods, when moral values fall, affecting all, especially children—those innocent victims of the curse of conflict.

In these troubled postwar days, when nations are merely beginning to learn that there is a way and a will to work together for world order and international cooperation, we must intelligently and aggressively combat the effects of the war upon today's youngsters.

To do so will cost only a fraction of the billions which we so willingly poured out of our collective pockets to prosecute the war. But we will not truly win the war and achieve those purposes for which it was fought, unless we treat with and heal those moral and social festering which had their origins in the conflict.

What a small matter it is then, to ask the good people of this city to reach down into their pockets and give generously so that you who are charged with the moral and character training of thousands and thousands of New York City youngsters outside of their school hours, may do so adequately and successfully.

The Boy Scouts of America is doing a significant job for the youth of our land. Theirs is a great responsibility in these postwar days. The citizens of New York, I am convinced, will rise to the challenge if they are made aware of the need and are given an opportunity to contribute to the correction of the problems.

Recently, I returned from a 3 months trip around this shrinking globe. The plane on which I embarked rose into the skies, and without any effort on my part, I was transported on my modern magic carpet to Portugal, Spain, France, Germany, and Italy. From there I was whisked off to Cairo and the Holy Land, to fabulous but troubled India, and then in turn to Singapore and Shanghai, each with its poverty stricken millions.

I saw devastated Tokyo, learning its A B C's of democracy at the feet of their revered schoolmaster, General MacArthur; shook hands with our Australian friends in Sydney; rejoiced with the men of Manila over their

recent liberation; and then home at last after a brief but pleasant stay in Honolulu.

Throughout this globe-encircling flight, I sat physically and mentally at ease, confident that the young men who piloted and navigated these planes were endowed with the knowledge and skill to take me where I wanted to go—swiftly and in safety.

As I observed them, I was convinced that beyond their technical preparation, they were equipped with another more significant training to prepare them to assume the grave responsibility for the lives entrusted to their care, which often required split-second decisions in moments of crisis.

I am certain that most of these top-flight young Americans who navigate the airplanes of the world, in their youth had the benefits of good home guidance; had the spiritual and moral influences of their churches; and had the inspiration of the character-building and citizenship-training program of the Boy Scouts of America.

I wish that every boy had the qualifications that these young men have. And I know one element of their training which is available to every boy where a Scout troop exists. That is the opportunity to be a member of the Boy Scouts of America, and to receive the training given in Scouting.

Unfortunately, not every boy has the opportunity to be a Boy Scout, a Cub Scout, or a Senior Scout. Recent Gallup surveys showed that three out of four New York City boys want to be Scouts, but that only one out of every four is actually getting that coveted opportunity.

The reason for this inability of Scouting to serve all the boys who desire to be Scouts may be very simply stated. It is our failure, yours and mine, as interested citizens to furnish sufficient funds to create and maintain a Scout organization here in New York City which is adequate in personnel and able to provide camps usable the year 'round, and other facilities in order to serve the hundreds of thousands of boys crowded together in these comparatively few metropolitan miles.

Let us consider for a moment these disturbing facts. Nearly half of the 100,000 persons arrested for serious criminal offenses in New York City this past year were youngsters under 20 years of age, and 75 percent of these youngsters were mere boys.

Visualize, if you will, what those startling statistics mean in misspent young human lives and personalities, and then link to them this significant situation—52 percent of New York City's teen-agers have no continuing relationship to any leisure-time program.

Scouting, with its activities so appealing to youth, may mean the difference between a boy ending his brief career in a bandit gun battle, or sitting as the confident master of himself and of the destinies of others, at the controls of one of man's most complicated inventions—a globe-circling plane.

Our failure to provide this boy with the training of Scouting may mean for him a life

of delinquency and crime, instead of a career that will bring success to him, satisfaction to his family, and progress to the community at large.

Let me call your attention to an even larger aspect of the work in which we are engaged in Scouting. I was handed a letter sent to Richard Ford, one of the Scouts here with us this morning at this dawn-patrol breakfast, and which he recently received from a boy in Germany. I quote from it:

"You will wonder that you get suddenly and unknown a letter from Germany. I got your address by a Scout brother.

"I am a boy of 15 years. My father is a legal adviser and we have lived in a little town in Uecklenbourg. Now we are homeless and we attempt to build us up a new existence. Therefore I am willing gladly in communication to come with a comrade and friend.

"I am here patrol leader and we have just come home from a fine trip with my boys. We were in Vogelsbert—an old volcanic mountain. We have pass the night in a shaky hut. It was a icy cold fog. We have not tents.

"Excuse me, my English language bad is and I have not found the right expressions.

"Your comrade,

"KNUD."

That letter, written by a 15-year-old German youngster, expresses the hunger of boys in that misguided land for the free expression of their youthful desires to practice the skills of Scouting as well as to participate in Scouting's world brotherhood of boys.

Let me read you another letter, addressed to members of Boy Scout Troop 218, of New York City, which recently had sent camping equipment to a Scout troop in Arnheim, Holland, where, you will remember, our Allied air-borne troops battled so magnificently after they had been cut off inside the German lines. This letter acknowledges the gift of the American troop's equipment, and was addressed to their meeting place in the Synagogue Community Center, in Manhattan, which sponsors the troop. I quote:

"As we got the case last week, we were gladly surprised to find all those beautiful equipments we need so bitterly.

"You know how the situation was as we returned to our city. Not only all houses were looted, but we found our Scout homes heavily damaged. Now we are building a new headquarters—an old garage or stable—badly damaged, too. Has now got a new roof and glass windows * * * the only thing we can say now is that it is rainproof. With your nice new axes we can build furniture, as soon as we get some trees.

"But we should not speak about our difficulties; we should say how happy we are with the presents you make us. We are proud of our American tents. As soon as the case was opened we admired the contents and immediately built up the tent.

"I am sorry that I cannot say in English, as I should like to do, how the boys are

looking forward with glittering eyes at the new tent standing behind our house.

"We shall never forget the New Yorker Brother Scouts."

What more can I say, or need I say, as to the importance of scouting's international brotherhood of boys—to help bring about friendship and understanding among the youth of the world.

With such friendship and understanding, beginning in childhood and continuing into adult relationships, we can hope for a better world.

My recent globe-girdling trip has brought home forcibly to me that the world has grown closer together geographically, so that one

segment of it could reach out with ease and destroy another with the aid of that new-found instrument of destruction, the atom bomb. One sure way to prevent such a catastrophe is to teach brotherhood to our children.

As we launch this drive here this morning to raise a million dollars for Scouting's needs of 1947 in Greater New York, I see the task ahead as of such vital importance to our national and international well-being, that I believe every thoughtful citizen of this community will want to give financial support or personal leadership, or both, to the Boy Scouts of America.

