

INSTALLATION OF ALVIS CARVER AS
AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Dunn, North Carolina

July 4, 1965

We, here in Harnett County, are proud and happy that our fellow Legionaire has been so highly honored and we share with all of you pride in his many accomplishments in the American Legion and look forward to a great year of progress under his leadership.

It is no mere coincidence that his installation as State Commander is taking place on the birthday of our country, for the purposes of the Legion set forth in the preamble to its constitution is to "foster and perpetuate one hundred per cent Americanism, to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation—and—to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of freedom and democracy."

Today as this ceremony takes place thousands of American men are fighting and many are dying in the far distant land of South Viet Nam in order to safeguard the liberties of free men everywhere against tyranny of Communist oppressors.

The threat to the safety and security of our country and way of life, both from within and without, never seemed greater.

Danger From Without.

During the last 24 hours, three of Russia's man-made satellites

have criss-crossed the skies over the United States in such a pattern that any area in this country could have been effectively destroyed had either of them contained a nuclear weapon and had the Russians chose to bring it down on any particular place. These satellites are fully capable of carrying such weapons and our potential enemy is capable of bringing them down any time they desire.

And it is no secret that our potential enemies, the Communists, have on this day inter-continental missiles aimed at many of the strategic areas of this country. These missiles are capable of reaching their target here in the United States within 30 minutes from the time they are launched. Through our North American Air Defense setup, the launching of these missiles could be detected in time to give the President only 15 minutes warning. Even, if we had effective anti-missile weapons, which we do not, there would be insufficient time to adequately employ them.

Alarming? Yes, even horrifying.

I believe that the American people should be made fully aware that if the day should come when the Russians or Chinese Communists should develop anti-missile weapons before we are able to do so, the effectiveness of our planes and weapons as a deterrant would be destroyed.

Danger From Within.

We ought to recognize also that while American service men are

dying at the hands of the Communist bayonet, another force is threatening the freedom of every American and the friendliness and understanding that have made our nation great.

Never before, since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 189 years ago today, has there been a greater need for a calming voice and influence among the many and various groups who have, in the name of the so-called rights they pursue, sown discord and hate throughout our land.

There are those on the one hand who have, in furtherance of what they choose to call racial equality, promoted racial unrest, turned neighbor against neighbor, friend against friend and race against race, by mob action in the streets, by demonstrations where they flung themselves in the streets in the face of oncoming traffic, they have blocked entranceways of private business establishments, and have even laid sprawling in the White House. Through such actions, these groups may have acquired some 'so-called rights'. I seriously question how many real and last^{ing} rights and opportunities they have acquired.

And on the other hand, there are those, who have sought to achieve their goals by creating mass hysteria. They have by threats, intimidations and in some cases, violence, defeated in the very goals which they have sought.

In my humble opinion both groups have failed to achieve success, but have in many instances inspired the lunatic fringe who are willing to use such methods for any purpose whatever. One day, they are

marching in front of the White House carrying signs to "ban the bomb," the next time they are lying in the White House without even knowing the purpose for which they demonstrate.

On the other extreme, there are groups who march around the country creating disorders and discord, and wearing upon their arms the hated and despised Nazis swastika—a symbol of the tyranny and oppression of another era, which many of you remember so well.

It is hightime that those who have and would promote discord and hate among our people and who have in fact weakened the very unity and foundations of our country, stop short, and turn their energies and efforts toward a rededication of themselves to the preservation of an unyielding faith in those fundamental principles of government on which their own enjoyment of the blessings of liberty depend.

How many more real and lasting rights and privileges would have been gained for all people today, if those who have spend their time in marching and blocking streets would have instead devoted their efforts in teaching their people to develop a justified pride in their own heritage and distinctive qualities so that each group would regard its heritage as a treasure held in trust for unborn generations.

How much better off would we all in America be today if their efforts and energies had been spent in training the unskilled to hold better jobs, the illiterate to read and write, and the educated and informed to use their abilities and training to develop^a greater understanding among men and of the fundamental principles of free

society.

I would hope that all Americans, from the Black Muslims to the American Nazis, will follow the example of the American Legion in working to instill a sense of individual obligation to the community, the State and the Nation so that we may safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy. This can be done in no better way than through a keen sense of patriotism without protest being heard at the ballot boxes and not by civil disobedience or fear or intimidation.

The Legion has sought to do his first by encouraging patriotism in our schools by your citizenship awards. You have instilled in our young people by means of Girls State and Boys State, a love for our country and belief in the fundamental principles which are so necessary if we are to preserve the blessings of liberty.

The impact of these programs alone may be illustrated by citing the fact that 21 per cent of the enrollment of the Air Force Academy were Boys State delegates, 18 per cent received your citizenship awards, and 58 per cent were Boy Scouts. Your baseball teams have helped to endow our young folk with those great virtues of sportsmanship and mutual respect. Your scholarships have helped thousands to assume their rightful place in society.

Your activities in the defense of democracy have been too numerous to mention. Would that these many other groups of whom I have talked follow your pattern of positive leadership.

The Legion has always sought to keep us free by keeping a watchful eye upon the defenses of our nation and you have never failed to remind our leaders, both military and civilian, that only through strength can we have lasting peace. This was never more true than today when admittedly we could not stop the ballistic missiles of our enemies. But, because of our polaris missile submarines, our strategic air command and other powerful weapons, any potential enemy realizes that an attack on us would bring total annihilation in retaliation. This position has not always been popular with the rank and file because of the heavy tax burdens such defenses require but, the Legion has persisted and today we are all thankful.

But, then the Legion has never been too concerned about criticism. And I commend it for its courage, and especially its everlasting opposition to Communism, in whatever form it may appear. Its opposition to appearances of communist leaders in our colleges has helped alert the people of this ever-present danger.

As you well know, such Communists as Langston Hughes, Gus Hall and Sam Rosin desire more than anything else to gain respectability by appearing on the same platforms that great Americans have appeared. It is to some degree the same principle used by the biggest ricketeer who is a pillar of a local church—seeking to gain respectability so that he may be more effective in his real endeavors.

If these people should lead only one more Larry Phelps to their cause, then they have destroyed a little of America.

Academic freedom they cry? Freedom of speech they cry? Is it really necessary to academic freedom for us to invite communist spokesmen to spread their subversive doctrine before the students on our campuses? It is no more necessary than it would be for us to give our child doses of marijuana or heroin to teach them the evils of dope addiction.

There is nothing to prevent any teacher from teaching anything in the classroom he desires, including communism. In fact, we do teach communism and have special institutes for such purposes, but it is taught by loyal Americans. I doubt that our local churches would allow the use of their pulpits by those whose avowed purpose is to destroy Christianity.

The refusal of a platform for a Communist speaker at the expense of the taxpayer violates no man's right to freedom of speech or academic freedom.

Any such person can preach his line and gain such respectability as he can in any building, he or his friends own or rent, but why should a building built with your tax dollars be used to give him a platform from which to advocate the destruction of your freedom and our American form of government.

I do not believe that our people want such use of our college platforms. And I am frank to say that those of us who are trustees of State supported colleges must show sufficient interest and concern for our responsibilities before we may expect a return of the power by the Legislature, so that we may provide policies concerning such use.

I think that most of our college boards do a good job, but I must recognize that the people have lost confidence in these boards to clean their own houses and rightly so in many instances. These boards must demonstrate first a full understanding of their responsibilities by laying down policy and carrying out those policies in conformity with American traditions.

When they are willing to do this, and only then, can they expect or will be entitled to the return of the authority which they seek.

I am compelled to believe that it was because of their failure to do this that the Legislature intervened in the first place. We must not lose sight of the fact that it is the legislature that is the link between the citizens and these schools.

And, in the end, as you Legionaires know better than any one group the will of the people must prevail in a democracy.

Robert B. Morgan