

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA - RALEIGH
FALL ROUNDUP KICKOFF (SCOUT RECRUITING)
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THE VIRTUES OF SCOUTS ARE THE
VIRTUES OF AMERICA

Just a short while ago, President Carter addressed this nation and warned us about the present crisis of confidence which seems to challenge our accomplishments. It is a malaise that has apparently not come about during his presidency, but presumably had its origin in a number of events beginning with the political assassinations of the 1960's and followed by the Vietnam war, Watergate and the energy crisis.

Much publicity was given to this statement by the President, but not all together deservedly, I believe.

To my mind, these events are merely the symptoms of crisis, they may enhance a lack of confidence but they do not create it. If there is such a lack of trust, we must seek it in ourselves, in our attitude to our neighbors and our institutions, and in our expectations. There was another sentence in the President's speech which appeared to have received very little notice, but which much more clearly points to a possible remedy: "If we talk about America, let us say something good."

It is this sentiment, this exhortation, which links our present situation to the creed of scouting: our love and our loyalty for our country. The ideals by which scouting has developed over the years can, if broadly applied to our national life, make a forceful and positive contribution in the resolution of our problems. Let me examine the relevancy of this proposition.

No doubt, the history of scouting has its roots in the essence of patriotism and good citizenship. The founder of the scout movement, Robert Baden-Powell, exemplified the virtues of loyalty and trustworthiness

in his life and set a standard for you who followed him.

Baden-Powell had a great military career in the British Armed Forces. His leadership qualities helped him to become a general in His Majesty's army. His bravery was manifested on more than one occasion; once, despite being greatly outnumbered, he held off enemy forces for 217 days in the town of Mafeking, South Africa.

During this military experience, he acquired other skills which are still the hallmarks of scoutism today, such as living and camping outdoors. He enjoyed nature and developed a deep respect for his environment.

These basic virtues of citizenship cannot be the prerogative of the military; they can also not be assumed to exist automatically, but must consciously be acquired by training. For this reason, Baden-Powell created the institution of scouting, to provide an early foundation for our young people to grow into their responsibilities of citizenship. Scouting found its way to America, I understand, by a fluke of history. When, in 1909, an American visitor to London got lost in the fog, he was rescued by a British scout. Upon returning to his native country, D. C. Boyce, the London visitor, set out to introduce a movement to America whose

admirable traits he had come to experience and to admire. It is this ability of our nation to absorb what is good, to try the untried, and to accept the risks of innovation which has made our country great.

I believe it was Oscar Wilde who said that the value of ideas depends upon the sincerity with which they are expressed. Scouting is such a vehicle. It has created loyal citizens and dedicated leaders who live by an idea. The Scout Oath exemplified, in all *ideals* frankness, which I believe created a better man, a better government and a better nation: the duty to

one's God, the duty to one's country and the duty to one's self.

The Duty to One's God

An examination of scouting reveals it to be a microcosm of the ideals upon which our country was founded. The moral and religious obligations expressed in the Scout Oath reflect the ethical convictions of our Founding Fathers. They believed then, and I believe now, that the principle of inalienable rights, the fact that no man intentionally may trespass against the rights of others, was basic to liberty and the

"pursuit of happiness" of our people. The acceptance of these convictions generates respect, it generates obedience and discipline and produces patriotic citizens, hard-working leaders and a stable society.

The pledge to live by our religious beliefs has become an important part of the scouting tradition. It implies honesty and service to the community, and forms the very character of a nation. It is not the quality of the government that makes for a prosperous nation, but the integrity of the governed. It was Thomas Jefferson who told us that honesty is the first

chapter in the book of wisdom. He was probably echoing George Washington who assured his countrymen that "I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man." I realize that many of you may wonder whether politics and politicians can ever be synonymous with honesty since there are so many legal ways for being dishonest. Perhaps it may reassure you to know that most of my colleagues in Congress have been a scout at one time or another. But I must admit that we must make the

world honest BEFORE we can honestly say to our sons and daughters that honesty is the best policy.

A similar standard should be applied to our involvement in the community. Scouting teaches us to respect our fellow man, and to live with him in harmony. If we practice these principles in the service to our communities, these communities will be stronger and more unified than ever. They are the backbone of our nation, a concept too often underestimated when policy is formulated in Washington. In many arguments on the floor of the Senate, I have

found that some of my colleagues sincerely believe in setting federal standards which are to guide our citizens.

Yet what are federal standards but the cumulative experience of our diverse communities? For this reason, it is so fundamentally important that you, as scouts, make your participation in community development a matter of the highest priority.

Let me leave you with one more thought before examining another scout duty. The wisdom and foresight of our Founding Fathers have always greatly impressed me. But much of what they accomplished

could not have endured without the active support,
the honesty and the integrity of the American people.
Loyalty to country and devotion to God are the essence
of the American way: today and tomorrow. This creed
has seen us through many trying ordeals, it is the
strength of America.

Duty to Country

The Scout Oath also reminds us of our duty to
country. The scout law elaborates that this be based
upon loyalty, bravery and obedience. These are BIG
words and many young people today in the age of the

generation gap, shifting allegiances and early personal independence may very well feel that they are values belonging to a distant past. Let me assure you emphatically that these values are needed today more than ever. Although we are still the most powerful country in the world, respected by our friends as well as by our potential adversaries, this unique situation is changing rapidly. Our SALT II discussions reveal that the Soviet Union has surpassed us in some military fields which is disconcerting but not decisive. Our dependence on overseas energy sources makes us

realize that our industrial might is no longer as secure as it has been. The imbalance in our trade tells us that many other countries in Western Europe and Asia are more successful than we are in production and price stability. Events in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Rhodesia and Nicaragua challenge the old belief that we can still positively shape world developments. And I could give you more examples.

What I am saying is that we can still be as self-confident and optimistic about the future as we were in the past, but that we must realize that the

number of nation-states has grown rapidly and with it the problems. In order to maintain our position in the world, the values we cherish and the institutions we honor, we must be conscious of our responsibility. It can not be left to the politicians in Washington or in Raleigh alone, we must recognize it as an individual responsibility at any level and at any time. Our personal fate is inextricably linked to that of America.

No doubt there are some among us who might ask what, in return for our commitment, can we expect to receive from our country? Most of us work long

hours, pay high taxes, stand in gas lines, cannot afford to buy what we would like, and may even have to anticipate unemployment. Such a list of concerns comes natural because I have learned long ago that most of us will more easily pinpoint the negative than to emphasize the positive. Perhaps we lack a basis for comparison in order to appreciate what we have. My duties have taken me to different parts of the world but in all instances, I was glad to return. We have the freedom to move around without internal passports. We have the freedom to inform and to express ourselves without censorship. We have the freedom for personal

initiative without the restraining influence of ideology.

We live in a nation which offers us the highest living standard in the world and which is able to give us the security to enjoy it.

As you will readily realize, we are taking these freedoms for granted, and will not fully appreciate them until they are no longer available to us. Is there any question why millions of immigrants and refugees from around the world will risk their life to come to the United States? There does not seem to be a great demand for going to Pakistan or Nigeria

or Peru. In other words, the scout oath calling for duty to country implies not only an appreciation for what we have, but the need to render a service to maintain what our forefathers achieved. I am talking about protecting our democratic way of life.

We have to remind ourselves that there can be no daily democracy without daily citizenship. Democracy is, in the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "the most humane, the most advanced and in the end the most unconquerable of all forms of human society". If we really want to understand democracy, I believe

that we should spend less time in libraries or classrooms, but spend more time in buses and cornerstores with the people. That is the operational level of democracy where you and I can interact for the preservation of our form of government. As one of our constituents wrote to me the other day: "Tell the President to demand that the individuals sacrifice. Tough times call for tough measures".

And this is the spirit which underlies your scout laws that ask for loyalty, bravery and obedience. There is no better illustration for these characteristics

succeed. For this reason, it is so important that we seek to implement the scouting principles as best we can. In this way, scouts can demonstrate not only good leadership but an example for others to follow.

But the challenges of today do not only command loyalty; more importantly, they require sincere and dedicated, if not inspired leadership. To lead is to act, to reason and to judge. Do not wait until tomorrow, you must lead your own generation and not the next. Only leaders, Walter Lippmann tells us, can make a nation out of an aggregation of individuals.

In a democracy, leadership is not attained by status of birth but by merit. This requires consistent training and attainable objectives such as are offered by the Scout movement. Do not let this opportunity pass by to make your own contribution for a better tomorrow. Let me end by repeating what I said initially: the virtues of the scout movement are the virtues of America.

WHITE. PROGRAM SERVES 9% OF ALL ELIGIBLE FAMILIES; WAITING LINES ARE LONG, HUD HAS AUTHORITY TO BUILD 50,000 UNITS THIS YEAR, BUT IS HAVING DIFFICULTY GETTING PROJECTS COMMITTED AND BUILT, PIPELINE STUFFED. THERE ARE 2,702 LOCAL PHA'S. THE LARGEST 125 HAVE 53% OF ALL UNITS, AND THE BIG CITY PHA'S HAVE 33% OF ALL UNITS. HEAVIEST CONCENTRATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING IS IN OLDER CITIES OF NORTHEAST AND MIDWEST. OVER 2,400 SMALLER PHA'S GENERALLY DO NOT USE BIG HIGH RISES, AND ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE SUCCESS STORIES. RENTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING AVERAGE \$65 - \$70 FROM TENANTS, AND THE FED. PAYS AN AVERAGE OPERATING SUBSIDY OF ABOUT \$100 PER UNIT MONTHLY.

PUBLIC HOUSING PROBLEMS:

PHYSICAL DETERIORATION. NEW ENERGY COSTS; FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WITH COSTS EXCEEDING RENT REVENUES; SOCIAL PROBLEMS - MANY ONE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS, HIGH RATIO OF CHILDREN TO ADULTS, CRIME, LACK OF SOCIAL SERVICES. NEIGHBORHOODS FREQUENTLY ISOLATED; MANAGEMENT OFTEN SUBJECT TO POLITICAL CONTROL, UNION DOMINATION.

HUD EFFORTS:

1. OPERATING SUBSIDIES PAID BY FORMULA BASED ON AVERAGE OF WHAT "PERCEIVED" PHA'S THAT ARE WELL MANAGED NEED. THIS HASN'T TAKEN CARE OF