

PRESIDENT RUTHVEN, MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1950,
AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: Thank you very much for welcoming me
here this afternoon to this your great family gathering. One of
the things that I like as an official guest in your country, as
I have been over the last two years, is that wherever I go as a
stranger you always put one word in front of it and say, "welcome
stranger." I appreciate it and I thank you very much.

When I was asking myself what I could say to the graduating
class this afternoon about the world we are living in; about its
tensions and its strains, its doubts and its difficulties, its un-
certainties, I found myself thinking of a conversation that I had
with my father just over two years ago before I came out here as
Ambassador. He was talking to me one evening and he said, "Do
you realize that at the age that you are going out to the United
States as Ambassador, 43 years, do you realize that I had lived
through 43 years of my life by 1914? Have you ever thought of the
contrast between my 43 years and yours? You have seen two world
wars and a great depression between 1905 and 1948. In my 43 years
I saw nothing like that. I believed that I was a citizen of a
country and belonged to a world in which peace, prosperity, and
progress were the order of every month of every year. Life seemed
like that and there was nothing in my first 43 years to disabuse
me of that confidence." Well, my father was contrasting the 19th
century with this 20th century of ours. It's true that the 19th
century for America and for Britain was a very great century.
When I think of your country in the 19th century, I think of the
conquest of a continent, the moving frontier, the wilderness

turned into farmland, villages growing up and growing into towns, great cities coming into being, a continent being mastered to be the home of a great nation; a period of wonderful expansion and development.

In Britain too, the 19th century was remarkable. In it we initiated the Industrial Revolution. We became for a time the workshop of the world and out of our ports flowed that stream of manufactured goods which we exchanged for raw materials and food-stuffs and by the use of our currency, the pound sterling, by that peace we imposed upon the seven waters, the seven oceans of the earth by our Navy. We too, enjoyed a great period of peace, prosperity, and expansion in the 19th century. I think we both in our different ways and in our different countries prospered in that century because we didn't hesitate to meet the challenge of our time. You were called upon to pioneer a continent; we were called upon to pioneer the Industrial Revolution. Neither job was easy. Both called for hard work, hope, resolution, endurance, and out of these qualities America of the 19th century was made and so was Britain.

I don't think that my father was altogether right when he looked back on the 19th century as it were through a golden haze. We have a challenge of our own century and our own times to meet, and provided that we are willing to put into it as much effort, as much will, as much intellect, and as much character as your forefathers and mine put into the 19th century, I think we stand a very reasonable chance of coming out. If here you pioneered a continent

in the 19th century; if we in Britain pioneered the workshop of the world at that time, though not now. I have just come through Detroit! So now I think that in this century, in the middle of the 20th century, you and we have a pioneering job to do. I call it the pioneering of peace. We have been taught by two world wars in this century that peace is not something that you can take for granted as my forefathers and your forefathers believed in the 19th century. They thought that the world was on the road to peace without any effort on their part. They believed that if war broke out it would be local and die away without interrupting the triumphant march of man. We know that that is not so, for we know that peace is not something that happens but has to be achieved because it doesn't come by luck or by chance! Therefore, it is, I think, the challenge that we in our century face. The pioneering of peace in the world is something that will take all those qualities manifested in your country and in mine, on a different job facing a different challenge in the 20th century. The pioneer is a realist, he knows that the future is uncertain. He can see the difficulties and the dangers that surround him. But he sees them for what they are. He doesn't minimize them. He doesn't live in a world of make-believe and suffer a rude awakening; nor does he magnify them and let his fears extend their shadows until there is no sunshine left in his soul. He sees the troubles and the dangers as they are, and because he sees them as they are, he makes the difficulties into opportunities, the dangers into challenges to be overcome and to be surmounted. We have got the troubles, the difficulties, and the dangers in the world today. You know, we

live and for the last two or three years have been living, on a plateau of tension; a plateau of tension created by the behavior and policies of Russia. There is no reason to think that without effort, without sacrifice, without resolution and endurance, that we shall leave this period of tension that it will happen to us, that we will wake up and find that we live in a peaceful world without having done anything about it. History does not work out that way.

If we are to surmount the dangers that we face, if we are to get rid of the difficulties that we see as we look ahead, it's going to take exactly that pioneering spirit of endurance and vitality and resourcefulness that oft our forefathers, yours and mine, displayed in the 19th century. If we look at our world and our century like that I don't think that there is any need to be discouraged about it. Already some of the work of pioneering is beginning. Look back over the last three years.

I remember that I came over to America in the autumn of 1947. I came as the representative of 16 nations that had been meeting that summer in Paris to draw up a report of the position and needs of western Europe in response to an invitation made by General Marshall in June at the University of Harvard. That autumn when I came over, the plight of the western European countries was real. Agricultural production was low; industrial production was limited and stifled by shortages; monetary reserves were running out, and those in countries where recovery from the war was only just beginning. The American people found it in their wills and in their hearts to

create the European recovery program. That program has now run for two years. Already the wheels of industry are turning, and turning reasonably fast in western Europe. Already we are beginning to send out our manufactured products for the foodstuffs and the raw materials that we need. Recovery is on the way and with physical and economic recovery comes that other recovery of confidence, of morale, and of belief in the future. That is a great act of statesmanship and generosity initiated in the United States of America and which by itself is a constructed contribution to the pioneering of a free world which will earn peace.

My own country in that period receiving help from you for which we are most grateful, making every effort to use it well, has been able to do something else which we believe is of significance when it comes to the construction, the pioneering of a peaceful world. In these three years we have been able to show on the continent of Asia, that empire can be the nurse of freedom. There stands there today three new countries, India, Pakistan and Ceylon. We have exchanged the roles of conqueror and conquered for those of friends and members of the British Commonwealth of nations, and we in Britain hope that that parting which has resulted in friendship and not enmity, in joining the family of nations and not leaving it, is going to produce in that great continent a center of stability and peace from which can be built up a new bulwark in pioneering a peaceful world.

Then I think, too, of a speech made by the British foreign secretary, Mr. Bevin in January of 1948, in which he foreshadowed

the possibility of some kind of union across the Atlantic. I think of a very great statesman, native to your state, Senator Vandenberg, a statesman for whom we in Britain, above and beyond all considerations of party, have the greatest liking and respect. We have followed the news of his illness and operations with grave anxiety. We have heard of his recent bereavement with the deepest sympathy and our hearts go out to him at this time. You will remember that it was he who introduced the Vandenberg resolution into your senate, preparing the way again for what became nine months later the Atlantic pact. There again you have the free countries of the west deliberately and voluntarily joining together to find strength in comradeship, to build up defensive power, threatening no one.

Only the last month these powers met in London in conference. Out of it came one of the great decisions that go with the pioneering of peace; the decision that the countries which are members of the Atlantic pact would together build up balanced collective forces. Things are happening. The work of pioneering is begun. There is encouragement to be derived from the world we are living in as well as doubt, uncertainty, or even fear.

I venture to think that you, members of the graduating class of 1950, have a responsibility in this matter. You have received the privilege of a higher education in a great University. You have received a discipline training of the mind; you have been taught the skillful use of your faculties. The pioneering of peace in the 20th century isn't something that can be done in a day or a

month or in a year. It's going to take the same patient, laborious, constructive effort, that the building of your country took or the building of mine. Your trained minds can help to distinguish between fact and rumor; to distinguish between reasonable opinion and prejudice. You can participate, you should participate in this work of building up the conditions for a peaceful world. It's not a job which governments can do by themselves. They can only do it if they have the backing and the intelligent participation of their people. And you, who have received education in a great University, you have this responsibility. You have learned what it is to look at history in perspective and proportion. You know what things can be done fast, and what take time. You have to be partners in meeting the challenge of the 20th century, for without you we shall not have that intelligent, resolute, and decided backing without which governments falter and fail. The pioneering that I am talking of is hard and it has its romance and reward as had the pioneering of the American continent or the pioneering of Britain in the Industrial Revolution.

Our forefathers never believed that happiness could only be discovered in idle ease beyond the day of toil. They found it in the works that they did, in the efforts that they put out, in the consciousness that the job they were doing was worth doing. If I am right, just as they did a good job, believing in the cause for which they pioneered, so we facing this challenge of our time have a very good cause ahead of us. Something which demands what we have to put into it as citizens. If we are prepared to pioneer, if we

are prepared to give effort, to give thought, to give the fruits of character to what we do, then we too may find that most elusive of all things, happiness in what we do. I hope that as you go out as citizens of this country or as again as many of you I am sure were veterans, as you go out again into this world, I hope that you won't hesitate to feel these things that I am talking about, that go beyond the frontiers of your country or of mine that affect us all in this world that has shrunk by the airplane and the radio till now what happens in any part of it concerns us all. I hope that you will feel that this is a challenge that we can meet, that we don't do it by ignoring danger or difficulty. Those are there and those are real, but it is worth while by resolute effort overcoming them and finding ways around them and turning difficulty into opportunity for confident hearts. May you find happiness in the doing of it.