

*Liberal Key Club  
Early Fall, 1963*

FULFILLING THE DEMANDS OF FREEDOM IN AN AGE OF REVOLUTION

I am honored by your invitation and trust you understand how genuinely I appreciate it. As a Kiwanis member of long-standing, I have long been interested in Key Club and have had many opportunities to learn about your organization and your splendid work in many important areas.

In all Key Club has undertaken a genuine concern for the basic principles of freedom and a strong unwavering faith in the future of your country has been revealed.

The explosive, force of revolution is one to which the world has long since grown accustomed and by which it is no longer astonished. Indeed, civilization has even become used to measuring its history in eras of individual revolutions--the industrial revolution, the cultural revolution of the Renaissance, the political revolution of the rise of the city-states, for example.

All these developments have amounted to a great deal of progress, in the broad scheme of things--but by no means has it been progress without pain--for, in one way or another, revolutions are always painful.

Liberal Key Club - Early Fall, 1963

- 2 -

We therefore have no reason to expect the future to be one of bliss and comfort--because the future, like the present and the recent past, is certain to be full of spectacular changes, revolutionary in character. What we are certain to experience--indeed, what we are already beginning to experience, is not just one more revolution--but a whole group of them, all coming off at once.

There is a technological revolution, already in progress, affecting every phrase of our daily living. Homes are now being equipped with electronic kitchens which allow the housewife to quick-roast a steak dinner in less than a minute. And beneath some homes are those 20th-century throw-backs to cave-dwelling days designed to save the occupants, themselves, from being quick-roasted by a different kind of radiation.

In the field of transportation, our astronauts, *such as Myra Cooper* have flown around the earth in less time than it used to take for their fathers to travel to the adjoining county seat.

In communications, we have already established instantaneous world-wide television by means of a satellite in outer space. Conventional news reporting of only a few years ago now seems dull, in retrospect. For, today, the radio and television broadcaster is not satisfied merely to tell the people what happened. He takes a whole nation--and frequently the people of many nations--right to the scene so that they may see and hear for themselves while news events are actually taking place.

(more)

Liberal Key Club, Early Fall, 1963

- 3 -

In medicine, we have conquered polio and seemingly are within close reach now of getting a strangle hold on cancer. Man-made electronic-plastic substitutes are being designed to replace faulty internal organs of the human body.

Political organs also are a part of a revolution. Not only have we created and managed to keep alive the traditions of democracy, but each year of their continued existence strengthens their very nature. Totalitarianism is far from dead, of course. But there is a stirring and striving, like never before on earth, among the inhabitants of this globe to determine their own destinies--and within the span of their own lives.

It were as though our own Revolution of the Eighteenth Century spawned countless other revolutions, all over the world, many of whose gestation periods are only now coming to fulfillment.

There is also a population revolution, so rapid that we regard it as explosive--a doubling of the world's inhabitants from one and a half billion at the close of the 19th Century to nearly three billion today.

In our own country, where the population has climbed from 75 million to 185 million in the same period, we are fast becoming a nation of urbanites. In Kansas, for example, I have seen within my lifetime a transition from a basically rural community to one in which more than sixty percent of the people live in cities.

(more)

Liberal Key Club, Early Fall, 1963

- 4 -

There is also a cultural revolution. Once the arts were intended for and enjoyed exclusively by a handful of wealthy patrons. Today the richest artistic expressions of the ages, and of the hour, are available to the multitudes, and frequently within their own homes.

Museums and galleries are jammed as never before. Records and tapes sell, within reasonable prices, by the millions. Is there a home in this land without its budding musician or painter or writer or ceramicist, however gifted?

Opportunity looms ahead, towering above us--and yet there exists the dreadful possibility, the sickening thought that all this may be only a mirage; that all this may amount to no more than a delirious dream dangled before our collective nose, as a kind of unattainable temptation: the world of progress, peace and plenty that we are never to enjoy--snatched from reach, at the last moment, by those to whom the benefits of freedom appear in the light of dangerous political symbolism.

By this I of course refer to the hideous possibility that our country, our traditions, our way of life and our hope for the future stand in jeopardy of being overborn by the forces of international communism. Should ever this occur, the light of the future would of course be extinguished and the path of progress jammed with the litter of stricken human hopes and dreams.

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Liberal Key Club - Early Fall, 1963

- 5 -

It therefore behooves us, as patriotic and responsible Americans, to consider world needs from two separate points of view, in order that we may fulfill the demands of freedom in this dangerous, revolutionary age.

In the first place, merely to preserve the existence of our democratic institutions we must ~~we must~~ sponsor and promote a most vigilant policy with respect to our national defense. For experience has shown that whenever the enemy talks sweetest and softest, the danger to this country is all the more menacing. And yet, in following a policy of vigilance, we must not, at the same time, hamper the free flow of ideas that stimulate the growth of both the democratic spirit and technological advance. Nor, for that matter, must we wholly ignore the need for education along other lines, as well. Indeed, we need to educate Americans--at all ages--to cope with each succeeding day of the world in which they live--not to cope with just one segment of it or to create the illusion of a little isolated world of their own in which they can feel comfortable.

Of course, we want everyone to be a specialist. But we must not let it stop there. In our eagerness to produce specialization, we must not fail to specialize in the most important specialty of all--the art of living a responsible and meaningful life.

As I see it, your ~~organization is~~ <sup>org</sup> admirably equipped to lead the way in the struggle at hand--a struggle to fulfill the demands of freedom in an age of revolution. ~~For of all American youth, none is~~