

March 7, 1966

GREETING TO MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

It is a privilege to join my friends at home in prayer and fellowship on the occasion of the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. I trust your meeting may be productive of great spiritual benefit and know that my friend "Pete" Cunningham will have a message of interest---even at the early hour.

I am sure many of you are aware of the fine example set for the Nation by the annual Presidential Prayer Breakfasts, a tradition carried on without a break since the first year of President Eisenhower's Administration in 1953, when the House and Senate Prayer Breakfast groups suggested that a Presidential Prayer Breakfast be held.

The Prayer Breakfast Movement was actually started long before this, back in 1935, in Seattle, Washington, when Dr. Abraham Vereide, a Norwegian immigrant who had been active as a Methodist minister in Montana, brought together a group of businessmen concerned about Christian responsibility in the political affairs of Seattle. His Prayer Breakfast meetings inspired a rebirth of responsible government in Seattle, and a great tradition was born as groups of businessmen and public officials in other regions of the country followed suit. Then in 1942, Dr. Vereide came to Washington and organized Prayer Breakfast Groups in the House of Representatives, in the Senate, and in various agencies of the Federal Government. From the beginning it was considered essential that these prayer breakfasts be carried on without public fanfare. The House and Senate groups avoided publicity, but the Presidential Prayer Breakfast was a spectacular and newsworthy event and received widespread notice in the press. Consequently, the Prayer Breakfast movement has become widely popular and is known throughout the world.

MAR 7 1967

Senator Carlson, at the Presidential Prayer Breakfast on February 4, 1965, said: "We have found this event to be very meaningful, not only to those of us who gather at the breakfast but also to the millions of citizens across this Nation. The growth of the Prayer Breakfast Movement during these past 13 years has been remarkable. As a result of this breakfast, practically every Governor in the United States hold an annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast in his own State capital with the leaders of that State. And literally hundreds of smaller regular groups are meeting to foster faith and freedom in this land as around the world. Prayer groups now meet regularly in the National Canadian Parliament, the House of Commons in London, Tokyo, Paris, Madrid, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, and other places."

It is my hope that this tradition, a wholesome reminder to us all of our dependence upon God and our duty to be guided by His Law in our business and governmental affairs, may long continue to bless our city of Russell and our State of Kansas.