

Tuesday, July 22, 1975

[REDACTED]  
Hull, Massachusetts 02045

Mayor Kevin H. White  
City of Boston  
Office of The Mayor  
City Hall, Boston 02201

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MAYOR'S OFFICE

Your Honor:

Please excuse my presumption - but as a lover of Boston, former resident, retired police officer and long an admirer of your stewardship I hoped I might have come across something that could prove of some value to one of your aides during the coming campaign.

Then too - there is a cancer checkup due tomorrow at the Mass. General that troubles me and strangely sustains my presumption.

I am afraid of Phase Two.

I did riot duty in Grove Hall in the summer of 1967 and have seen what enmity, waste and despair can occur when wiser and cooler heads no longer prevail.

Admittedly I am prejudiced in your favor but judgement alone and your past performance would have me prefer your leadership over that of your opponents' in time of strife.

I was an admirer of the young congressman who left our city and eventually became our President. I have read much of what he had written and of what others, both pro and con, had written about him.

I had a thought that just possibly his so called Peace Speech, particularly the last two paragraphs of the enclosure, if properly brought to bear in the right areas could possibly be of some benefit not only to yourself, our fair city, but to all of her citizens whose homes, honor, hopes, dreams and aspirations have made up that beautiful mosaic called Boston. And I would that all should know that if that mosaic is ever destroyed something exceeding beautiful and irreplaceable will have forever disappeared.

[REDACTED]

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Respects Sir; and best wishes

Excerpt from Commencement Address at American University in Washington, June 10, 1963 delivered by President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Called the Peace Speech and regarded by many as one of his three greatest - the other two being his inauguration speech and his civil rights speech of June 1963.

Authority: "John Fitzgerald Kennedy ... As We Remember Him"- Atheneum - New York 1965. Page 193 of pages 193, 194, 195.

First: Let us examine our attitude toward peace itself. Too many of us think it is impossible. Too many think it unreal. But that is a dangerous, defeatist belief. It leads to the conclusion that war is inevitable - that mankind is doomed - that we are gripped by forces we cannot control.

We need not accept that view. Our problems are manmade - therefore, they can be solved by man. And man can be big as he wants. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings. Man's reason and spirit have often solved the seemingly unsolvable - and we believe they can do it again.

I am not referring to the absolute, infinite concept of universal peace and goodwill of which some fantasies and fanatics dream. I do not deny the value of hopes and dreams, but we merely invite discouragement and incredulity by making that our only and immediate goal.

Let us focus instead on a more practical, more attainable peace - based not on a sudden revolution in human nature but on a gradual evolution in human institutions - on a series of concrete actions and effective agreements which are in the interest of all concerned. There is no single, simple key to this peace - no grand or magic formula to be adopted by one or two powers. Genuine peace must be the product of many nations, the sum of many acts. It must be dynamic, not static, changing to meet the challenge of each new generation. For peace is a process - a way of solving problems.

With such a peace, there will still be quarrels and conflicting interests, as there are within families and nations. World peace, like community peace, does not require that each man love his neighbor - it requires only that they live together in mutual tolerance, submitting their disputes to a just and peaceful settlement. And history teaches us that enmities between nations, as between individuals, do not last forever. However fixed our likes and dislikes may seem, the tide of time and events will often bring surprising changes in the relations between nations and neighbors.