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"This Nation Under God"

Yesterday, in Washington, President-Elect Eisenhower arose, ate a quiet breakfast with his wife in their suite in the Statler hotel, and then set out for the Presbyterian Church to worship God, and to beg the strength, courage, and wisdom required for his new task. Later he rode to the Inauguration with President Truman to the Inauguration ceremonies. On the steps of the capitol building, with his hand upon the Holy Bible, the President-Elect took the oath of office, and promised to discharge his obligations to the best of his abilities. He then gave his Inaugural Address, rode down Pennsylvania Avenue, and assumed control of the White House. For 2½ hours he watched the great parade pass before him, then adjourned to the White House, his new home.

Now that the tumult and the shouting, the fanfare and the hubbub, have died down, inevitably it must have come home to the new President that upon him has been laid one of the most awful responsibilities on this earth. He must be very much sobered by the accounting he will one day have to give to God.

But it should be comforting to recall that God gives His help, in proportion to the magnitude of the task, to those who ask help -- especially on their knees. Last week, at the unofficial meeting with his new cabinet, the President began deliberations with a prayer. Surely that was a proper beginning.

With God's help we have made a great dream come true here in America -- where all men, endowed with inalienable rights by their Creator, are equal in their claim to justice. Ours is a nation under God. With God's help, we can and should spread our American ~~dogma~~ ~~to more~~ and more of our fellowmen.

The Jefferson and Lincoln idea of government -- "of the people, by the people, for the people," -- is by no means universal. You don't have to look far, today, to observe its being challenged at the very core -- by the denial of God, and by the consequent denial of the dignity of human beings, and their rights. Taking God out of government leaves a people as ~~secure~~ as cattle -- no more.

This nation is God's nation. The task of keeping it fit for God's creatures to inhabit is no small assignment. With God's help it can be done. Mr. Eisenhower will have God's help if we ask for it -- as we certainly shall. This occasion, then, is a time of prayer for our leader, and for our country.

In 1936, when President Roosevelt visited Notre Dame to receive an honorary degree, and so to become an alumnus of this school, he said that his most precious remembrance of Notre Dame would be the assurance of Father O'Hara that we should have him always in our prayers. Mr. Eisenhower, we think, would echo much the same sentiments.

"We Can Avoid War If ..."

"We can exert sufficient influence on the UN to take positive action in recognizing and emphasizing that belief in God is the only foundation for human liberty and world order. Obviously, no international society can achieve its objective unless men are first united under God. Said Pope Pius XI: 'Then only will it be possible to unite all in harmonious striving for the common goods, when all sections of society have the intimate conviction that they are members of a single family and children of the same heavenly Father...'"