

Mr. Chairman, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pangborn, Mr. and Mrs. John Pangborn, Your Excellency, Governor McKeldin of the State of Maryland, Your Excellencies, the Most Reverend Bishops, Distinguished Guests, and dear Friends of the Pangborn Family. After all the wonderful things that have been said here this afternoon, we might say at this moment that your cup is overflowing. Speaking at the end of this marvelous ceremony, I speak with the voice of many people. I would like to speak for all those who, while not being members of the Pangborn family or of the Pangborn Corporation, have felt the blessings of the advice, and the counsel, and the material assistance that has flowed from your hands and hearts. I speak for the many young people in our great educational institutions throughout this land, near to here and far from here. I speak for the many people in your hospitals, who have benefited by your kindness. I speak for the many people of many faiths who have felt your hand of charity and your hand of guidance. As a temporary member of the Pangborn family here this afternoon, I speak for all these others a simple word of thanks to those whom you affectionately call "Mr. Thomas" and "Mr. John". And I know I speak for both of them when I extend this word of thanks to each one of the members of the Pangborn Corporation who have made this really and truly a family. The inspiration that begins with the founding fathers of this Corporation has flowed down through all of you who belong to this family and who work here.

One surging thought and one deep emotion has struck all of us who have come here as guests this afternoon. I am sure that I speak for the other guests when I say that we feel we have seen America at its best

here in this State of Maryland and this town of Hagerstown. What a wonderful thing it would be if the whole world, torn as it is by strife and threats of war, could see what has happened here today. For this is truly America.

Only America could give birth to the story that has unravelled before our eyes this afternoon. It is an inspiration to all of our young people in America to know that fifty years ago that Mr. Thomas and Mr. John Pangborn were two poor young men with ~~the~~ only the talents that God had given them and the grace they have from God to do their work day by day. Beginning with this patrimony, with the inspiration of their minds and the courage of their hearts, they brought together an enterprise that has grown consistently and constantly during the past fifty years so that today it stands as a model among many other similar industries. No one can be discouraged with American industry today if he will look at what has happened here to two young men who had the will to work and the inspiration to attract other men to work with them. The Pangborn Corporation certainly dramatizes for anyone who will see it, the great and golden opportunity that is America.

What an inspiration this is to fathers and mothers, the working people who man this great plant. They can look into their children's eyes today and think that one day this son of mine may become President of this Nation, or Governor of this State, or a captain of industry, or a great teacher, doctor, priest, or minister. All of these futures are possible because this is America. America accepts a man for what he is, not for what he has. With courage, inspiration, and greatness of soul, any man can rise to the top no matter how close to the bottom he begins. People may be haunted by specters of fear throughout the world today, nations may brood in pessimism, but we who have been here today can truly be optimistic about the future America when such is its golden opportunity and such the inner fiber of its

citizens.

There is another great American truth that is dramatized here today. I am always disheartened to read in the newspapers the kind of articles that would make Americans believe that American industry is a great battlefield where labor and management are always at odds and always drawn up against each other in strife and contention. Strike articles may make news because they are sensational, but one tends to forget that twenty-four out of every twenty-five labor contracts in America are made through mutual bargaining agreements on the part of labor and management. The story that has been written during the past fifty years by the Pangborn Corporation is certainly a story of cooperation and of accomplishment, not of strife and contention. Here labor and management have trusted each other, have respected each other, and have tried to understand each other. The result has been a family. Another result has been a very successful enterprise because when men understand and respect each other, when they work together for a common end, we find the strength that lies at the heart of American industry. The Pangborn Corporation is a standout among its many competitors today because all of you, from the founder down to the most recent employee, are proud to belong to this family. And you can be legitimately proud of the accomplishments of this family over the past fifty years.

This is a story that should be brought to all America, and indeed to the world. Real and lasting accomplishments come from within men. America will be truly strong and grow in strength if there is peace and security in our families, and of this same type of family peace and security is reflected in all the great American endeavors where men work

together for a common purpose. Only human beings can work together to create this kind of strength, and only this kind of strength is significant for families, for industry, and for America. Contention and strife are destructive elements; understanding and tolerance and cooperation build all across the world. Nothing is built without these qualities which are the inner strength of men, the strength that is your pride today, the strength that has made America great among the nations.

There is one last remark that I would like to make this afternoon. It seems to me that all of us can profit greatly by reading and re-reading the words that your founder, Mr. Thomas Pangborn, spoken for himself and his brother, John, here this afternoon. This was no ordinary speech, if I may speak as one who has heard many speeches. This is the profession of the whole philosophy of life. Mr. Thomas Pangborn has said clearly that he recognizes true greatness is infinitely more than wealth, dollars and cents. True greatness is an attribute of the soul of man and a quality of man's spirit. Moreover, he has underlined the fact that each of us need to ponder, that true greatness is a quality to be used, not to serve oneself, but to serve God and one's fellow man. Mr. Thomas Pangborn has certainly recognized that he is his brother's keeper, that his wealth is not something that he should selfishly hoard to himself. The Pangborn Foundation is ample evidence that his wealth has been dedicated to others in need. No interest of humanity has been beyond his interest, and in this he has achieved greatness.

Mr. Pangborn has also recognized that the members of his own enterprise are the ones who should first feel the effects of its success. From the very first days of his business, he has seen that each of his

workers, no matter what his position in this company, should have what he needs to obtain a sense of peace and security in his family life, to raise his family in a decent fashion, to have enough to feed and clothe and to educate them, and to offer them all the opportunities to live a happy and successful life in this world as a preparation for something greater in the next.

This represents a marvelous example of the spirit of stewardship. It recognizes that all our talents and all our success are gifts from the hand of God given not really for ourselves, but, through us, to others that peace and prosperity and tranquility may continue to characterize this great nation of ours. This has been the true secret of the success of this corporation, that all have shared in building it and that all have shared in its success and that all, from top to bottom, have been proud to be a part of this enterprise.

I am sure that all of us here this afternoon have felt a legitimate pride in being Americans and to have heard and seen what has been done here. Our thanks go out to all of you who have made this possible. We are deeply indebted to each one of you who have created this wonderful cross-section of America under the inspiring leadership of Thomas and John Pangborn.

I hope that in the months to come it will be possible to have one of our professors from the University of Notre Dame come here, to study what has happened during these past fifty years at the Pangborn Corporation. It is a story that should be put into writing, so that the nation may read and appreciate all that has made your enterprise achieve true greatness.

In closing, I am happy to invoke the blessing of God upon all of you today, upon Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and John Pangborn, upon all of you who are indeed a happy extension of their families. I pray that God will bless America with many other families like the family we have seen here today. And I trust that the golden aura of this Golden Anniversary will shine on to the fifty years ahead, and that America may continue to be blessed by your example. May God bless and keep all of you.