

Area: 1961

FATHER'S TALK IN N.Y. ON ①  
UNIVERSAL N.D. NIGHT. ALSO  
SUGGESTED FOR PUBLICATION.

HESBURGH: It is always a great pleasure to return to one's native state and while I am formally based in Indiana, I have never forgotten that I am

at heart a New Yorker. My father was born in Brooklyn and my mother was born in the Bronx and while that leaves me out with the people from Queens I couldn't do more than have two parents and I think we can both say that they ~~came~~ <sup>came</sup> from the sidewalks of New York. I grew up, as you know, as a youngster in Syracuse, New York, where I was born, and spent the first 17 years of my life there. I have been away from there now many more years than I was there but one cannot be in education -- and especially one cannot be in that unpleasant aspect of education which is called fund raising without making many trips to New York. I would like to say however, that we have a lot of help here and an affair like this evening is a wonderful recognition ~~xxxx~~ of the work that our alumni are doing here in this city.

I must begin by thanking Governor Rockefeller for leaving a very busy schedule; he tells me that he still has 300 bills to sign, and ~~coming~~ <sup>came</sup> tonight here/to be with us to celebrate this Universal Notre Dame Night which is being celebrated in about 150 communities in this country and all around the world.

I first came to know Governor Rockefeller when he invited me to meet with a special committee called the special study committee of the Rockefeller Brother's Fund. And for about a year and a half we were together almost every other week for one or two days of very intensive intellectual study discussion that resulted in some (5) reports that I think have had a large impact on this country. I do not ~~xxxx~~ claim to have contributed very ~~xx~~ much to these reports but I have already told the Governor on a former occasion that I found those meetings over that year and a half ~~xxxx~~ <sup>an</sup> association with wonderful people ~~under this chairmanship that this~~ <sup>which</sup> did me more good really than four years in college -- it was a real post-graduate course. And I often think back on the long discussions we had and I can say quite honestly before you

-- I am not going to get political about this, this is simply a truism that I have said before when the Governor was not present -- that whenever there was a moral issue at stake he was always with me, I hope, on the side of the angels.

This is by some strange coincidence ~~//~~ my third Universal Notre Dame night, although the other two were out of the country. Last Monday we had Universal Notre Dame Night in Panama and Tuesday we had it in Costa Rica, in San Jose where we drew alumni from the various Central American republics -- Honduras, El Salvador, <sup>a</sup> Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica. We had two fine representatives ~~XXXXX~~ coming from <sup>16</sup> ~~Guatemala~~, but they got caught up in a Revolution so they never arrived.

I would like, first of all tonight, to say something to you as alumni. ~~That~~ The occasion of these meetings every year is to celebrate the love and affection we have for our common mother -- Notre Dame. And ~~that~~, while we talk about the University, I think my place is to talk about you and what you are doing to make the image of Notre Dame real in your neighborhood, in your business or profession, in your public service, in your family life and in all those aspects that make us proud of you as Notre Dame men.

The extension of Notre Dame is indeed worldwide today. It is an extension that I have seen during the past year in Tokyo -- I walked into a house there and out of the four people present, two were Notre Dame men. I have seen it in Manila where we had over 100 Notre Dame people turn up for a alumni meeting last September. I have seen ~~in~~ <sup>Dakar</sup> it in ~~Dakar~~, where under Father Bill Grahams ~~headship~~ as the headmaster or president of the Notre Dame college there, Notre Dame men are making a magnificent contribution to the upgrading of the economic and social life of that country. We even had <sup>a</sup> meeting in Vienna and Rome and just recently I spent some time that I will tell you a little bit about with the Notre Dame men who are part of the Peace Corps project in Chile.

~~So~~ First of all tonight I would like to say that it is your night because for all practical purposes you are Notre Dame in New York ~~and~~ I want to tell you that we are proud of the performance you are giving, those of you who are young and those of you who are old and those of you who are older, thank you very much.

I want to say that all of you, from the long spectrum in history of Notre Dame are ~~giving~~ <sup>marking</sup> the ~~N~~ name Notre Dame in this locality a thing of pride and a means of great affection and tonight I bring you from the University our affection and our respect and our pride.

I think today in the world we live in we ~~would~~ <sup>could</sup> characterize the day best by seeing it as a kind of time of dynamic change. And I would like to feel that Notre Dame and Notre Dame men ~~will be~~ <sup>are</sup> a part of this dynamic change that we are undergoing today in ~~a sense in the forefront~~ giving to this change some measure of intelligence, some measure of direction and, I would hope, a large measure of integrity. One cannot live in the day that we live in without realizing that this is indeed an historic ~~xxx~~ moment -- it is an historic moment in the world of religion, where, for the first time in 400 years Christians of many ~~denominations~~ denominations are finally starting to talk ~~to~~ to each other and to talk about being one in Christ. ~~And there is a large council to begin, aimed directly at this purpose.~~ In the field of the worldwide relationships of the developed and under-developed countries there is, today, a growing compassion on the part of those who have to help those who have not and have not had for many centuries. There is a kind of reawakening today of ~~a sense of~~ <sup>a sense</sup> social justice, ~~that~~ <sup>but</sup> we don't do something good just to be fraternalistic/because it is the right thing to do.

~~And~~ I might, perhaps, dramatize all of this change in one little example because I don't ~~want~~ want to take away time from the Governor, in one little example of the kind of changing times in which we are living and how your University is trying to grasp this moment of change and be a part of it.

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about a year ago-- not much more than that -- there was announced that we were going to have a Peace Corps, and many people wagged their wise heads and said, "This is the latest bit of ridiculous nonsense that has been thought up by some ~~woolhead~~ woolhead in Washington," because the last thing in the world we should do is ~~send~~ send a lot of inexperienced youngsters overseas, and if we have had trouble overseas before, we will have compounded trouble once these youngsters get there."

I didn't happen to agree with this judgment at the time, because if there is one thing I think I know about youngsters it is that they are, first of all, capable of great idealism and a great sense of dedication and sacrifice. Certainly World War II <sup>that</sup> should have taught ~~that~~ to us at least about our youngsters.

I think also that they have an adaptability, and a flexibility and a kind of energetic talent that can project America to ~~the~~ the world in a way that those of ~~us~~ us who are getting older cannot. And so I thought that if there were going to be a Peace Corps and it were going to be an exciting new reality for America, I would like to hope that Notre Dame would be a part of it. And the very night that the Peace Corps ~~was~~ was announced in Washington, I had a call from Sargeant Shriver and my former ~~legal~~ legal assistant on the civil rights commission who was the White House representative for the Peace Corps, Harris ~~Wofford~~ <sup>Wofford</sup>, asking me if Notre Dame would be interested in getting together a project in conjunction with the other schools in Indiana. I told them we would be delighted to get together such a project, and we did. We first ~~of all~~ went to Chile and asked the Chileans what was the worst and most neglected part of their country and they said the <sup>a</sup> ~~compo~~ -- the rural area, because in the last election the rural area went 100 percent Communist and these are the most hopeless, neglected people in all of Chile. And I asked if there were ~~any~~ anyone ~~working~~ -- any Chilean organization -- working in the rural area because I

don't believe ~~a~~ that Americans should go abroad and tell other people how to run <sup>more</sup>

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their own business; we might go abroad and help them run their own business, that's a different thing. ~~And~~ They said, "Yes, there are two organizations working very hard in the rural area. ~~The~~ One is the Communist Party and the other is a Chilean organization called the "Institute of Rural Education." ~~So then~~   
 4 ~~We~~ got into a truck and we went out into the rural areas -- some few hundreds of miles south of Santiago, as a matter of fact all the way to Valdivia. ~~This~~ This was right after the earthquake had taken ~~place~~ place and we got a rather stark picture of life in this rural area of Chile. ~~A~~ <sup>It's a</sup> beautiful country of ~~beautiful~~ snowcapped mountains ~~and~~ <sup>with</sup> the Pacific Ocean on the other side, gorgeous valleys with lateral mountains running ~~down~~ <sup>through</sup> them ~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> people, who were at a very low stage of social and economic development ~~who~~ were a little better off than the ~~chiefs~~ <sup>peons</sup> fiefs in the middle ages or the ~~peons~~ of ages past. ~~And so~~ we looked at the work of this institute. We found out that they had 12 ~~ten~~ schools to train peasant boys and girls in such things as health, child care, community development, ~~we~~ <sup>nutrition</sup>, food preparation, small gardening, raising of small animals, better crops and all the kind of things that might bring hope to a people who are living in a very depressed condition.   
 4 But they greatly needed the kinds of talents that weren't readily available there. We went to the universities and asked if the Chilean university students would want to go out and try to do this job and they said "No, when we finish the university we would like to get married and get a job." And I said, "That is just about what our university students like to do when they finish the university. ~~But~~ <sup>But</sup> I think that if we put this challenge to them they will be down here working in your country." ~~And~~ They said, "If you can make this happen, we promise you we will be working alongside of them, although we have never done it before. We don't have time to work in the rural areas, but if they come down and do this from so far away in our country, we will be forced to stand alongside of them and work with them even if only out of shame."

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We came back home and we put out a hurry call for volunteers <sup>from</sup> ~~for~~ all the schools in Indiana and ~~for~~ the schools at large in the nation. This was announced on the day of our graduation last year and I am happy to say that the largest contingent came from the University of Notre Dame and there are even <sup>three</sup> ~~3~~ girls from St. Mary's.

We brought the group together at Notre Dame on the 23rd of July. Half of them didn't know a word of Spanish, <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ in 8 <sup>eight</sup> ~~x~~ weeks we taught them, first of all, what Spanish was all about and secondly ~~we taught them~~ what Chile was all about, and then because we weren't perfectly sure they knew the answer to this third one, we also taught them what the United States was all about. We also gave them some pretty good ~~x~~ physical drill. <sup>we</sup> taught them some first aid and hygiene ~~although~~ <sup>but</sup> we had a wonderful group of young people: <sup>eight</sup> ~~8~~ nurses, <sup>eight</sup> ~~8~~ agricultural experts, <sup>four</sup> ~~4~~ home economists; community development people, social ~~x~~ workers, people with experience in publication, photography, radio and the like; and even <sup>four</sup> ~~4~~ foresters, which would be very helpful in Southern Chile, where they have great forests, but very little paper industry... ~~And we got to this group and in 8 weeks we had~~ them all speaking Spanish, as they say in Chile "Ma Humano" they drop their <sup>S's</sup> ~~esses~~ in Chile. But in any event, we had them speaking and we got them on a boat thanks to Peter Grace who <sup>threw</sup> ~~through~~ in \$5,000 to make it possible and the University also <sup>threw</sup> ~~through~~ in \$5,000, the U.S. government being so poor, but we got them down there and once we had them in Chile we gave them one more month and then they went into the field to work with the peasants.

<sup>The 21</sup> Now ~~this~~ past two weeks I fulfilled a promise of going down to see each one of them wherever they happened to be working ~~and~~ I might add that this is an easy kind of a promise to make in August and not so easy to fulfill in April. But in any event the promise was valid and on April 9<sup>th</sup> I left New York ~~and~~ flew to Chile and, in the ensuing two weeks, traveled some

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3,000 miles by jeep and antiquated train and truck and land rover and burro or you name it. (But in any event I did go to every spot where these ~~8~~ volunteers were working and ~~talked~~ talked to each one of them. I came back with a great ~~inspiring~~ inspiring reflection on young America, and I came back with great pride that Notre Dame had been the source of the idea and the place of the training and had had the courage to push this movement when many people were making sly remarks about it.

Half of our people are already in wintertime down there because they are very close to the Antarctic in the southern region and far down below the other side of the Equator.

I saw some ~~30~~ 30 or 40 of these boys and girls living in places where for months they had to ~~sleep~~ sleep ~~in~~ on the floor before they were able to contrive some beds. We did give them sleeping bags. I tried ~~sleeping~~ sleeping in most of the places they were sleeping and must admit that I came back with a prize collection of bed bug bites as well as ~~and~~ fleas. I tried eating their food, and while I didn't get too sick I must say I didn't put on any weight. Some of our youngsters have ~~lost~~ lost up to 30 pounds -- the boys mainly. The girls have taken over all of the food preparation for ~~the~~ these 12 schools so some of them have put on some weight. But the interesting thing was that I did not hear, in this 3,000 miles of travel and talking mainly to Chileans, a single bad word about anyone of our volunteers. All I heard was praise. All I heard was this is some kind of Americans we have never known before. ★ Here are young people who have given up jobs at ~~\$6,000~~ \$600 a month to come down here and work practically for nothing -- they get \$75 a month if they put <sup>two</sup> 2 years in after they get back home. If they don't put in the two years, they subtract ~~it from~~ their travel cost. These young people are living without hot water in the middle of winter, they are living on rather simple diet, they are eating

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the same food the peasants are eating although they are ~~xxx~~ preparing it a little better than the peasants used to prepare it. They are living in conditions that call for not just generosity but often her~~o~~ism.

✓ I arrived one night in a ~~xxx~~ place called <sup>Rio</sup> ~~Deo~~ Negro, Black River, ~~xxx~~ and it was a black day at black river, I want to tell you. One of our youngsters who happned to be a Notre Dame boy — Tom Scanlon, ~~who~~ who was a Woodrow Wilson winner last year and put in a year of graduate study at the University of <sup>Toronto</sup> ~~Trano~~ before volunteering for the Peace Corps, had just ~~gotten~~ back from a four-hour trip in his jeep down the side of a mountain where he had been visiting some Indians who had a village up there. ~~the~~ ✓ ~~Mapoochi Indians~~. These ~~indians~~ Indians were also all voting Communists, and ~~when~~ Tom went <sup>up</sup> he had to make <sup>three</sup> 3 trips up this mountain before they would ~~xxxxxx~~ even sit down and talk with him. But he said, "The Communists aren't the only people in the world that can help you, I am willing to come up and help you too." And the girl that works with me, <sup>would</sup> ~~Janet Badly~~, from Texas, she'd like to come up and talk to the women of the tribe and tell them something about health and about child care, about nutrition, about food preparation, about small gardening. It will give you <sup>much</sup> ~~much~~ more food." And he said, "I would like to talk to you about cooperatives because I have a plan here where I can save you \$2,000 a year on the things you are buying in ~~xxxxxx~~ towns by going down in ~~xxx~~ oxcarts individually and buying. I can get a truck and we will buy it all at once and instead of \$5,000 worth of provisions, it will only cost you \$3,000. I'd like to talk you into a cooperative on sugar beets because you have fine land for growing these things and there is a refinery right down the road." ✓ ~~And~~ The Indians said to him: "Well, you have been up there three times, You seem to be honest, although we distrust you because you are an American and Americans have never been interested in us. But if you are really willing to help us, there is what you can do." He said, "In about one month

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the snows are going to come, and when the snows come we will have three to five feet of snow all the way up this mountainside ~~all~~ to the ~~max~~ spot near the top where we live. And if you are really serious, ~~he said~~, "you can drive that little jeep of yours to within 20 kilometers of this village -- that's where the snow line begins -- and then, ~~he said~~, you can walk 20 kilometers through three to five feet of snow and if you get here and you are still alive, then we will sit down and talk to you for a whole week because we are not going anyplace."

~~Well~~ I said, "Tom, what are you going to do about it?" He <sup>replied</sup> ~~said~~, "we are going as soon as they get their three to five feet of snow, ~~he said~~, Janet, myself and four Chileans, two boys and two girls who work with this Institute of Rural Education, ~~we~~ are going to climb that mountain in the snow and we are going to spend that week with them. ~~When~~ we get through they're not going to be Communists ~~any~~ anymore, because we are going to show them what kind of help we can bring to them. ~~And he said~~ ~~we~~ are not going to talk about Communism, ~~we~~ are not going to talk about democracy, ~~we~~ are just going to show them by our interest and by our service to them what it really means."

~~Well~~ I think, ladies and gentlemen, ~~and~~ I'm going on too long and I want to wrap this up a ~~little~~, I think that we live in an age that Galbraith has called ~~the Affluent Society~~. "We live in an age when the values that are ~~held~~ held up to young people are values of ease and security, ~~and~~ the quick dollar, ~~and~~ recreation and pleasure. And in such an ~~x~~ age I think it is a very ~~x~~ promising thing for America that the kind of young people that we are turning out of our schools are willing to take, instead of ~~the~~ ease, things like sleeping on the floor ~~in~~ in a cold hut and getting bitten by bed bugs -- something they don't have to worry about here in this country. And, believe me, you can't avoid them down there. They have to have instead of money to give up a prosperous job and give two years of their life

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in utter sacrifice for practically nothing but service to mankind, which indeed, is the most rewarding service of all. There isn't enough money to pay for this kind of service. They are willing, instead of comfort, to take long jeep rides on dusty roads and those that don't have jeeps have to ~~walk~~ walk. They are willing to take poor food instead of good food. They are willing to take cold when it is cold and heat when it's hot, instead of warmth and air conditioning. They are willing to do all of these things because they believe that the world will not be better unless people who have talent to make the world better are willing to spend some of that talent ~~&~~ for some years of their life in the service of other people and not just for themselves.

I would like to think that this young generation is something we can be proud of. And while tonight I might have spent a lot of time telling you about the new library <sup>which</sup> ~~which~~ it appears now is going to cost \$10 million instead of \$8 million, or about the new computing center which is going to cost \$3 million <sup>or</sup> ~~and~~ more, or about the new radiation laborator<sup>y</sup> ~~which~~ is going to cost somewhat over ~~\$2 1/4~~ <sup>\$2.25</sup> million or the two new graduate residence halls that are going to cost \$2 million or the new ~~& vedville~~ <sup>Vetville</sup> or married students' apartments, that are already built for \$1 million, or of the many other exciting things that are going on at the University as a sign of growth. To me, I would not trade all of this, all of these buildings and all of these dollars for the kind of human idealism and human values and human education ~~xx~~ that is the substance of this place we call Notre Dame, because without the substance of these values, without the idealism that inspires the hearts of these young people, without the kind of courage and dedication and ~~xx~~sacrifice that makes ~~xx~~ a great distinction between a person who is worth something and a person who isn't worth very much, without this kind of thing growing and growing strongly and even fiercely,

at Notre Dame, the buildings would be worthless and those of you who have spent time gathering the dollars to pay for these buildings would be wasting your time. And so, rather than tell you about the material growth tonight, or even to make a pitch to you for more money which we desperately need, I think it is much more significant on this evening \* when we celebrate Universal Notre Dame Night to tell you that the young people are not going to the dogs, but they are indeed, in the words of, a man who wrote me from Oncoud, in the <sup>southern</sup> ~~southern~~ most point of Chile last week, "They are indeed giving us an example that is both inspiring to us and is also a promise of greater things to come in the years ahead." ~~And I want to salute all of these young people around the world (and we have Notre Dame men in almost \* every one of these projects in the Philipines, Nigeria, Tanganyka and all over the world.)~~ I want to salute them because, after all, this is the purpose of Notre Dame, this is the only reason it exists, it's the only meaning behind the dollars that are contributed, it is the only purpose for which the buildings are ~~gi~~ being built, it's the only reality that is strong enough to bring all of us together in a love that is fiercer and stronger than death because we feel we have here, as Bill has said, a rendezvous with destiny, we have a country that we want to serve and ~~we want to love~~ <sup>one</sup> and we want to make more bright and more of an example to the world, <sup>And</sup> I think we have here the kind of \* inspiration that brings us \* together and I hope will keep us together and that I hope will make all of us better ~~people~~ because of this association.

To all of you, many thanks for coming out tonight and God bless you all.