

21H.131: America in the Nuclear Age  
Quotes and IDs

"I can deal with Stalin. He's honest--but smart as hell."

"He intended to go on with the plans for San Francisco and if the Russians did not wish to join us they could go to hell."

"It is also necessary to take into account the fact that Poland borders with the Soviet Union, what cannot be said of Great Britain and the United States."

"The Soviet government will never be easy to 'get along with'."

"As long as the Soviet government maintains its present foreign policy, based upon the theory of ultimate struggle between Communism and Capitalism, the United States must assume that the USSR might fight at any time for the twofold purpose of expanding the territory under communist control and weakening its potential capitalist opponents.... This government should be prepared, while scrupulously avoiding any act which would be an excuse for the Soviets to begin a war, to resist vigorously and successfully any efforts of the USSR to expand into areas vital to American security.

The language of military power is the only language which disciples of power politics understand."

"The war will not be over until the people of the world can again feed and clothe themselves and face the future with some degree of confidence."

"I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. ... The world is not static, and the *status quo* is not sacred. But we cannot allow changes in the status quo in violation of the Charter of the United Nations by such methods as coercion, or by such subterfuges as political infiltration. In helping free and independent nations to maintain their freedom, the United States will be giving effect to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It is necessary only to glance at a map to realize that the survival and integrity of the Greek nation are of grave importance in a much wider situation."

"One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression."

"The Soviet Union, by its very nature, does not and cannot have cyclical economic crises and mass unemployment due to overproduction."

"Many newspapers and other publicity media have secret Communists on their staff who regularly slip in a neat hypodermic needle full of Moscow virus."

“I consider your crime worse than murder. Plain deliberate contemplated murder is dwarfed in magnitude by comparison with the crime you have committed.”

"I am obliged to appear before this committee without assistance of counsel, Mr. Tavenner, because of the fact that the repressive activities of this committee have made it impossible for me to secure the assistance of attorneys of my choice.”

“It is not a question of our wanting you to answer that. It is a very simple question. Anybody would be proud to answer it--any real American would be proud to answer the question, "Are you or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party" --any real American.”

“Communism, in reality, is not a political party. It is a way of life—an evil and malignant way of life.”

“Most Communists spend years in study and training for their subversive roles. You cannot expect to outwit and thwart them by reading a couple of pamphlets or even a book. You will simply have to know your stuff. Merely hating them is not enough....”

"In summary, we must, by means of rapid and sustained build-up of the political, economic and military strength of the free world and by means of an affirmative program intended to wrest the initiative from the Soviet Union, confront it with convincing evidence of the determination and ability of the free world to frustrate the Kremlin design of a world dominated by its will."

“I have in my hand fifty-seven cases of individuals who would appear to be either card carrying members or certainly loyal to the Communist Party, but who nevertheless are still helping to shape our foreign policy.”

“When this pompous diplomat in striped pants, with a phony British accent, proclaimed to the American people that Christ on the Mount endorsed communism, high treason, and betrayal of sacred trust, the blasphemy was so great that it awakened the dormant indignation of the American people.”

"This indicates the swiftness of the tempo of Communist victories and American defeats in the cold war. As one of our outstanding historical figures once said, "When a great democracy is destroyed, it will not be from enemies without, but rather because of enemies within."

"Karl Marx dismissed God as a hoax, and Lenin and Stalin have added in clear-cut, unmistakable language their resolve that no nation, no people who believe in a god, can exist side by side with their communistic state.”

"Obviously, the words cannot mean that before the government may act, it must wait until the putsch is about to be executed, the plans have been laid and the signal is awaited. If Government is aware that a group aiming at its overthrow is attempting to indoctrinate its members and to commit them to a course whereby they will strike when the leaders feel the circumstances permit, action by the Government is required."

“I am waiting for my case to come up  
And I am waiting  
For a rebirth of wonder  
And I am waiting for someone  
To really discover America  
And wail  
And I am waiting  
For the discovery of a new symbolic western frontier  
And I am waiting  
For the American Eagle  
To really spread its wings  
And straighten up and fly right  
And I am waiting  
For the Age of Anxiety  
To drop dead  
And I am waiting  
For the war to be fought  
Which will make the world safe  
For anarchy  
And I am waiting  
For the final withering away  
Of all governments  
And I am perpetually awaiting  
A rebirth of wonder.”

"Once they read Baudelaire. Now it is the Consumers' Guide. Once they wrote poetry. Now it's the laundry list. Once they discussed art and philosophy until late in the night. Now they are so tired they fall asleep as soon as the dishes are finished."

“We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.”

“The family which takes its mauve and cerise, air-conditioned, power-steered, and power-braked automobile out for a tour passes through cities that are badly paved, made hideous by litter, blighted buildings, billboards, and posts for wires that should long since

have been put underground. They pass on into a countryside that has been rendered largely invisible by commercial art.”

“Not only did tarnish appear on our image of American virtue, not only did disillusion occur when the hypocrisy of American ideals was discovered, but we began to sense that what we had originally seen as the American Golden Age was actually the decline of an era.”

“We are people of this generation, bred in at least modest comfort, housed now in universities, looking uncomfortably to the world we inherit... Our professors and administrators sacrifice controversy to public relations; their curriculums change more slowly than the living events of the world; their skills and silence are purchased by investors in the arms race; passion is called unscholastic.”

"As a social system we seek the establishment of a democracy of individual participation, governed by two central aims: that the individual share in those social decisions determining the quality and direction of his life; that society be organized to encourage independence in men and provide the media for their common participation."

"In a participatory democracy, the political life would be based in several root principles.:

- that decision-making of basic social consequence be carried on by public groupings;
- that politics be seen positively, as the art of collectively creating an acceptable pattern of social relations;
- that politics has the function of bringing people out of isolation and into community, thus being a necessary, though no sufficient, means of finding meaning in personal life.
- that the political order should serve to clarify problems in a way instrumental to their solution...."

" I heard a mother of four, having coffee with four other mothers in a suburban development fifteen miles from New York, say in a tone of quiet desperation, "the problem." And the others knew, without words, that she was not talking about a problem with her husband, or her children or her home. Suddenly they realized they all shared the same problem, the problem that has no name. They began, hesitantly, to talk about it. Later, after they had picked up their children at nursery school and taken them home to nap, two of the women cried, in sheer relief, just to know they were not alone.."

"The purpose of these bases can be none other than to provide a nuclear strike capability against the Western hemisphere."

"I call upon Chairman Khrushchev to halt and eliminate this clandestine, reckless, and provocative threat to world peace and to stable relations between our two nations. I call upon him further to abandon this course of world domination, and to join in an historic effort to end the perilous arms race and to transform the history of man."

"We must not succumb to intoxication and petty passions, regardless of whether elections are impending in this or that country, or not impending."

"In Detroit the existence of social classes became much more difficult to discern the day the companies put lockers in the plants. From that moment on, one did not see men in work clothes on the way to the factory, but citizens in slacks and white shirts. This process has been magnified with the poor throughout the country."

If the middle class never did like ugliness and poverty, it was at least aware of them. 'Across the tracks' was not a very long way to go. There were forays into the slums at Christmas time; there were charitable organizations that brought contact with the poor. Occasionally, almost everyone passed through the Negro ghetto or the blocks of tenements, if only to get downtown to work or to entertainment.

Now the American city has been transformed. The poor still inhabit the miserable housing in the central area, but they are increasingly isolated from contact with or sight of, anybody else."

"That the poor are invisible is one of the most important things about them. They are not simply neglected and forgotten as in the old rhetoric of reform; what is much worse, they are not seen."

"The need is here. The need is now. I ask your help."

"The Great Society rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time."

"Unfortunately, many Americans live on the outskirts of hope - some because of their poverty, and some because of their color, and all too many because of both. Our task is to help replace their despair with opportunity.

This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America. I urge this Congress and all Americans to join me in that effort.

It will not be a short or easy struggle, no single weapon will or strategy will suffice, but we shall not rest until that war is won. The richest Nation on the earth can afford to win it."

"You do not take a person who, for years, has been hobbled by chains and liberate him, bring him up to the starting line of the race and then say, 'you are free to compete with all the others,' and still justly believe that you have been completely fair."

"In many places, classrooms are overcrowded and curricula are out-dated. Most of our qualified teachers are underpaid, and many of our paid teachers are unqualified. So we must give every child a place to sit and a teacher to learn from. Poverty must not be a bar to learning, and learning must offer an escape from poverty."

"The issue of equal rights for American Negroes is such an issue. And should we defeat every enemy, should we double our wealth and conquer the stars, and still be unequal to this issue, then we will have failed as a people and as a nation."

"It is wrong--deadly wrong--to deny any of your fellow Americans the right to vote in this country."

"For too many years, black Americans marched and had their heads broken and got shot. They were saying to the country, 'Look, you guys are supposed to be nice guys and we are only going to do what we are supposed to do—why do you beat us up, why don't you give us what we ask, why don't you straighten yourselves out?' After years of this, we are at almost the same point – because we demonstrated from a position of weakness. We cannot be expected any longer to march and have our heads broken in order to say to whites: come on, you're nice guys. For you are not nice guys. We have found you out."

"We cannot have the oppressors telling the oppressed how to rid themselves of the oppressor."

"I gritted my teeth and tried to pull the sides of the kitchen table together. The comb felt as if it was raking my skin off."

"The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. This offense we share mounted to storm the battlements of injustice must be carried forth by a biracial army. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back."

"...I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed--we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

"From December 1963 until his death in 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was the target of an intensive campaign by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to 'neutralize' him as an effective civil rights leader."

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress approves and supports the determination of the President, as Commander in Chief, to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression.

"Our objective is the independence of South Vietnam, and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves--only that the people of South Vietnam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way."

"A nuclear strike or two on a Vietcong or in North Vietnam would be the best guarantee that Chinese troops would not intervene."

"The further we explore the reality of what this country is doing and planning in Vietnam the more we are driven toward the conclusion of Senator Morse that the US may well be the greatest threat to world peace in the world today..."

"Because of Vietnam, we cannot do all that we should, or all that we would like to do."

"It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor -- through the Poverty Program. There were experiments, hops and new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war..."

"One of the most pervasive features of modern technology is the notion that it is intended to 'improve on nature'--to provide food, clothing, shelter, and means of communication and expression which are superior to those available to man in nature. Stated baldly, the third law of ecology holds that any major man-made change in a natural system is likely to be detrimental to that system."

"The Forgotten Man is Jackson's man. He is the vestigial American democrat of 1849: 'They all know that their success depends upon their own industry and economy and that they must not expect to become suddenly rich by the fruits of their toil.' He is also Franklin Roosevelt's man -- the man whose vote (or father's vote) sustained the New Deal..."

"The frustrated middle. The liberal wisdom about welfare, ghettos, student revolt, and Vietnam has only a marginal place, if any, for the values and life of the working man. It flies in the face of most of what he was taught to cherish and respect: hard work, order, authority, self-reliance."

"This memorandum addresses the matter of how we can maximize the fact of our incumbency in dealing with persons known to be active in opposition to our Administration. Stated a bit more bluntly - how we can use the available federal machinery to screw our political enemies."

"When you get in these people . . . when you get these people in, say: 'Look, the problem is that this will open the whole, the whole Bay of Pigs thing, and the President just feels that' ah, without going into the details . . . don't, don't lie to them to the extent to say there is no involvement, but just say this is sort of a comedy of errors, bizarre, without getting into it, 'the President believes that it is going to open the whole Bay of Pigs thing

up again. And, ah because these people are plugging for, for keeps and that they should call the FBI in and say that we wish for the country, don't go any further into this case, 'period!'"

"Mistakes yes. But for personal gain, never."

"No witchcraft, no enemy action had silenced the rebirth of new life in this stricken world. The people had done it themselves."

"The gap between our citizens and our Government has never been so wide. The people are looking for honest answers, not easy answers; clear leadership, not false claims and evasiveness and politics as usual."

"Our people are losing faith, not only in government itself, but in the ability as citizens to serve as the ultimate rulers and shapers of our democracy."

"It took Mr. Carter three and one-half years of hard work to get us into this economic mess. It will take time to get us out."

"We don't need any more doses of Carter's eight or 10-point programs to 'fix' or fine tune the economy. For three and one-half years, these ill-thought-out initiatives have constantly sapped the healthy vitality of the most productive economic system the world has even known."

"We know what works: Freedom works. We know what's right: Freedom is right."

ID terms:

Hiroshima

Truman Doctrine

Marshall Plan

Containment

domino theory

NSC-68

Alger Hiss

Aesopian language

fifth column

HUAC

Brown v. Board

Bay of Pigs

Cuban Missile Crisis

Affluent Society

Participatory Democracy

Port Huron Statement  
Other America  
Feminine Mystique  
Silent Spring  
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution  
Undersecretary of State George Ball  
Great Society  
maximum feasible participation  
Voting Rights Act of 1965  
Black Power  
New Left  
SDS  
N.O.W  
credibility gap  
Counterculture  
silent majority  
"Forgotten Americans"  
Kent State  
Roe v. Wade  
Imperial presidency  
detente  
SALT I  
Watergate  
Consumerism  
malaise  
WIN  
New Right  
Reagan revolution  
Reaganomics  
Iran-Contra Affair