IN SEARCH OF THE NATIONAL PURPOSE

by

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The following article is adapted from a lecture presented to the Class of 1977 at the US Army War College.

It has always been difficult to encapsulate the distinguishing characteristics of the American national purpose. Once, right after the end of World War II, when James Byrnes was Secretary of State, he was trying to explain to the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Molotov, just exactly what it was that set the United States apart from the Soviet Union. Finally, Mr. Byrnes said, "Let me put it this way. I can walk into the White House anytime I want, and nobody will stop me. I can go up to the President and say, 'Harry Truman, you're a damn fool.' And I won't be taken out and shot."

Molotov remained unimpressed by this explanation. "It's the same in the Soviet Union," he said. "I can go into the Kremlin anytime I want, and nobody will stop me. I can go straight up to Stalin and say, 'Harry Truman is a damn fool,' and I won't be shot."

National purpose is a tough concept on which to get a handle. There is even a legitimate question as to whether the national purpose is a valid concept, or whether it was invented for the US Army War College curriculum.

Some writers have been skeptical of the concept of national purpose. Hans Morgenthau, in his book, The Purpose of American Politics, claims that American purpose does not consist of a substantive ideal, but of procedures, ways of thinking, and conceptions of individual-society relations.

Daniel Boorstin maintains that the genius of America stems from the unprecedented opportunities of this continent and from a peculiar and unrepeable combination of historical circumstances; that we have nothing in the line of a theory that can be exported to other peoples of the world.

Reinhold Niebuhr makes a case against a national purpose by arguing that men are dangerous when they make claims of virtue, wisdom, or power which are beyond their competence, not only because they have unlimited appetites and unlimited yearning for power, but because they are creatures with dreams; and their extravagant dreams turn into nightmares if they seek to realize them.

Others, like Goethe, have assumed that the bulk of human effort goes simply to keeping the biological caravan going. But man is obstinate enough and close enough to God to ask occasionally, "To what purpose?"—asking both for himself as an individual and as a member of a larger grouping, the Nation.

We have a national symbol, the American eagle. Some people say we also have a national flower, the concrete cloverleaf. But do we have a national purpose—one that can be identified and consensually agreed to?

Since coming to the US Army War College, I have sat through a number of seminar discussions devoted to this question. Frequently, the upshot has been agreement that the national purpose is best expressed either by the Declaration of Independence in its reference to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; or by the preamble to the Constitution; or by Dean Acheson's cynical one-liner, "The national purpose of the United States is to survive, and, if possible, prosper."

I would reject all these formulations as simplistic and only part of the answer. Mr. Acheson's, in particular, begs the issue. If we have a national purpose, it must be something
which sets us apart, to some extent, from other nations. All nations, like all human beings or all animals, seek to survive and prosper. Surely, there is something in our history, our heritage, our character, our situation which distinguishes our aspirations from those of other nations.

I think there is, and—so saying—I find myself accepting the concept of a national purpose. I shall go one step further and accept the school definition of national purpose as “the enduring and changing aspirations of a nation.”

But this definition itself reveals the nature of the problem. Which aspirations have endured? Which have changed? Which are new? Will these new ones endure? How long is enduring? How are these aspirations articulated? And by whom? In the jargon of the social scientist, to what extent are these aspirations inner-directed, internally conceived and nourished, and to what extent are they outer-directed, that is, responsive to and influenced by the world environment?

A NATION WITH A TORCH

Let me begin by defining aspirations, for the purpose at hand, as idealized values. While the United States does not have any single, all-encompassing ideology, I think it is safe to say that we do possess a group of core values which have demonstrated their ability to survive. These values do not represent a single body of coherent thought, but rather a delicately balanced assortment in which we have made adjustments according to historical pressures and which calls for continuing adaptation.

One of the most enduring of our tenets has been the conviction that the United States, in Roger Williams’ words, has been the “City on the Hill,” from which should shine forth a new and better example of how men can live together and govern themselves. From the first, we have been very much aware that we had succeeded in creating unique and successful means of securing for ourselves individual liberty, representative government, and an economic order which reflected the liberalism and freedom on the political side.

The American system, the American dream, has generally been held by Americans to be far wider than the limits of our national boundaries. Listen, for example, to Walt Whitman: “O America, because you build for mankind I build for you.” Or Tom Paine: “My country is the world; my countrymen are all mankind.”

During the first hundred years of our national life, we did not consider ourselves obliged to export our governmental forms or ideals. We were primarily concerned with protecting these forms and ideals from contamination from Europe, with extending US trade, and with keeping the seas open for American ships. We could do so successfully because of our sheltered position behind the British fleet and British continental diplomacy, and because our neighbor to the north, Canada, was a useful hostage to our good relations with the British Empire.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, the United States was belatedly entranced by the same “smell of empire” which had seduced all the other advanced Western nations. We took possession of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Hawaii out of a mixed bag of motives: desire for trade opportunities, outrage at the cruelties (real and alleged) of Spanish colonial administration, preemption of others, or defense of our continental territories.

Those who opposed our imperialist adventure claimed that we had violated our purpose of keeping our unique contribution pure and undefiled by becoming a colonial power. Its proponents claimed that we were fulfilling our manifest destiny and that we owed it to less enlightened peoples to export our achievements and aspirations, not just by example, but by positive action.

That poet laureate of latter-day British imperialism, Rudyard Kipling, welcomed us to imperialist and world power status with these words, written on the occasion of our occupation of the Philippines:
Take up the White Man’s burden—
Have done with childish days—
The lightly proffered laurel,
The easy, ungrudged praise.
Comes now, to search your manhood
Through all the thankless years,
Cold-edged with dear-bought wisdom,
The judgment of your peers!14

In World War I, we went a step further in
our desire to see our form of government
flourish in the world. Wilson took the country
farther than it was ready—and practicable—to
go when he proclaimed that “the world must
be made safe for democracy.”

America’s withdrawal from the world in
the period between the two World Wars
represented a temporary consensus that
neither the shape of the world nor the
democratic character of nations was an
important concern of ours.

World War II saw the beginning of a subtle
change in our national purpose of promoting
democratic government by constant example
at home and sporadic action abroad. The
emphasis shifted to opposition to totalitarian
government—first Nazi and Fascist and then,
after the war, Communist. Underlying our
determined opposition to these totalitarian
ideologies was, of course, the assumption that
free, democratic governments more or less
like our own could only succeed if protection
were extended against totalitarian takeover.

In the intervening years, many of the
nations we have helped to protect have transformed themselves into authoritarian
forms of government, and we have generally
acquiesced in these transformations, provided
the transformation was not to Communism
(as in the case of Guatemala) or to a
seemingly dangerous homegrown ideology
(such as that of Mossadegh in Iran).

Two important exceptions deserve mention
here, and these exceptions may turn out in
the long run to be more important than the
general rule. Our military occupation of both
West Germany and Japan after World War II
was, in a very real sense, a highly successful
 crusade for our democratic principles.
Woodrow Wilson would have been pleased,
indeed, to see how well the beams from the

“City on the Hill” caught fire in Bonn and
Munich and Tokyo and Okinawa. And he
would have been pleased, and probably not
surprised, to learn that the executive agent for
this success story was the US Army.

There exists a physical symbol which
epitomizes this one aspect of national
purpose I have been trying to capture—our national aspiration to raise a
light of hope throughout the world and to
serve as a refuge, a rallying place, and an
inspiration to those concerned with the
liberty and dignity of man. That symbol is the
Statue of Liberty, and it is as significant
today as it was throughout the flood of
European immigration to our shores in the
last century.

Those who fled Hitler’s tyranny and
religious persecution in the 1930’s; the
throng of Eastern Europeans displaced by
World War II; the Hungarians after 1956; the
Cubans after 1960; the Vietnamese and
Cambodians in 1975; the many intellectuals
who have sought political asylum—all these
were drawn to our country, and welcomed by
this country, primarily for the reason so well
stated by Bayless Manning:

For all its blemishes, the United States
stands in the forefront of the world in its
commitment to the proposition that the

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of the Foreign Service.
individual human being should be free—free to think what he wants, write what he wishes, assemble as he will, read as his curiosity leads him, paint as his eye uniquely sees, worship as to him seems right, and espouse whatsoever political position he finds congenial, so long only as he accords those same privileges to his fellow citizens.\textsuperscript{5}

Some have looked upon this element of our national purpose with cynical eyes, maintaining that the prospect of material gain shines brighter in the American dream than does the light of freedom. In his novel, The Plumed Serpent, the British author D. H. Lawrence wrote:

And all the people who went there, Europeans, Negroes, Japanese, Chinese, all the colours and the races, were they the spent people, in whom the God impulse had collapsed, so they crossed to the great continent of negation, where the human will declares itself ‘free’ to pull down the soul of the world? Was it so? And did this account for the great drift to the New World, the drift of spent souls passing over to the side of Godless democracy, energetic negation? The negation which is the life-breath of materialism. And would the great negative pull of the Americans at last break the heart of the world?\textsuperscript{6}

Lawrence slanders us, in my view. He does not appear to comprehend the intimate connection between our political liberty and our material success, a connection which I believe is mutually reinforcing. Moreover, Lawrence underestimates the durable, although uneven, nature of that element of our national purpose symbolized by the Lady with the Torch. Such programs as the Peace Corps, the Alliance for Progress, our attempts to use foreign economic assistance to build democratic institutions in the countries receiving our aid, the current popular and Congressional concern over the suppression of human rights in countries such as South Korea and Chile, the debate over the moral quality of our foreign policy—all offer vital and immediate witness to the fact that we do have an enduring concern that others should have at least a chance at the same rights which we conceived, improved, and defended for ourselves.

Former Secretary of State Kissinger, to my mind, caught the essence of the external aspect of our national purpose in two statements:

We strive for a world in which the rule of law governs and fundamental human rights are the birthright of all.\textsuperscript{7}

We have the moral courage to hold high, together with our allies, the banners of freedom in a turbulent and changing world.\textsuperscript{8}

"Now, wait just one minute," I can hear you saying. "You have spoken this long about the external element of national purpose without once mentioning national security. Isn’t the defense of our freedoms basic to our national purpose? Doesn’t the preamble of the Constitution say something about providing for the common defense?"

The answer to both questions is, "Yes." But I submit that the desire to protect one’s self is so basic and natural and universal an urge that it should not be strictly considered an element of our national purpose. All nations—whether weak and small or large and strong—seek to defend themselves. They do it in different ways. Some rely on a strong neighbor and friend; some, like certain animals, defend themselves by exposing their throats and counting on an absence of lethality on the part of their neighbors; some, if they are powerful enough, carry the entire burden of their defense on their own shoulders.

Dr. Kissinger has said that national security is not a goal in itself; national security is a means of defending our values and giving us the opportunity to pursue our purposes and goals.\textsuperscript{9} The distinction I am trying to draw is not just a semantic one. It really involves a question of priorities. For example, is our ultimate external goal to check Soviet expansionism, or is it to enable the
opportunities for free choice and individual liberty to extend themselves in the world? Admittedly, you cannot achieve the one without giving heed to the other. But one is an enduring aspiration; the other is a necessary (and, I hope, transitory) task in the pursuit of the more fundamental purpose.

TO PRESERVE AND ENLARGE OUR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES

Our purpose abroad is inseparable from our purpose at home. In the domestic arena, even more than in the foreign policy field, it is difficult to funnel statements of goals into a single vessel. For purposes of exposition, I would offer that our basic domestic national purpose is to preserve and enlarge our individual liberties. The key words in this proposition are enlarge and individual. But this concept, if it is to have any meaning, must be examined in terms of its three principal dimensions: political, economic, and social.

In political terms, our purpose has been to perfect the democratic process. I imagine that many Americans sincerely believe that the entire panoply of our democratic rights was handed us full-blown by the founding fathers. Certainly what they gave us in the Constitution of 1789 was grand and wise and enduring. But it was enduring in large part because it was adaptable to change and because the democratic process has since been improved and extended.

After all, our representative democracy was not all that representative or democratic in 1789. Half the electorate was disenfranchised because of sex, a large part of the remainder because of conditions of servitude, and an even larger part because they were not sufficiently well-off to own property.

Historians often like to depict the principal changes which have occurred since 1789 in terms of movements or eras—the age of Jackson and the struggle against the elitist aspects of the established political order; the struggle to abolish slavery; the Populist and Progressive movement at the turn of the century to impose limits on the concentration of corporate economic power which begat political power and influence; and the civil rights and other legislation of our own era which have so effectively broadened the electoral base.

I find it more useful to think about the specific Constitutional amendments, legislation, and court decisions which have over the years contributed to the perfection of the democratic process. To cite some of the most significant:

- The 15th amendment (1870), which said the right to vote should not be denied or abridged because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. (Of course, it was not until our own generation that this section of our basic law was given real meaning.)
- The 17th amendment (1913), which changed the method of election of US Senators from state legislatures to direct popular vote.
- The 19th amendment (1920), giving nationwide suffrage to women.
- The 23d amendment (1961), extending presidential voting rights to the District of Columbia.
- The 24th amendment (1964), barring the use of the poll tax or any other tax in federal elections.
- The 26th amendment (1971), lowering the voting age to 18 years.
- The “one man, one vote” Supreme Court decision which ensured the full representation of urban populations in state legislatures where representation had often tended to favor the rural constituencies.
- The efforts of both parties to reform their primary election and party convention practices in order to make the results conform more to the will of the electorate.
- The legislation to reform election campaign financing.
- Congress’ effort to improve its procedures, notably the new budget procedure.

In his poem called “The Black Cottage,” Robert Frost addresses the subject of the Declaration of Independence:
That's a hard mystery of Jefferson's.
What did he mean? Of course the easy way
Is to decide it simply isn't true.
It may not be. I heard a fellow say so.
But never mind, the Welshman got it
planted
Where it will trouble us a thousand years.
Each age will have to reconsider it.10

Each generation is indeed called upon to
reapply the Declaration of Independence or,
if you will, to redefine the national purpose.

Of the attempts to improve the democratic
process which I have just mentioned, half of
the constitutional amendments and all of the
other signposts have come into effect during
my lifetime. Yet as the recent election
campaign demonstrated, there are many
Americans who are unhappy with Congress,
or public apathy, or the role of pressure
groups, or some other aspect of the political
process. The task of redefining and reasserting
our individual political rights is a constant one
and a controversial one, for only in hindsight
do we come in large numbers to accept the
logic and wisdom of actions which we debate
so hotly and protractedly when the issue is
still in doubt.

The economic corollary to the political
dimension of our national purpose is the
protection and extension of the
individual's freedom of choice in economic
decisions—whether they be decisions on
production, pricing, advertising, and sales
policies made by individual businessmen or
managers or farmers; or decisions on wages
and labor policy generally made through
collective bargaining by the managers and
trade union leaders; or the millions of
decisions made daily by consumers about how
they will spend their money.

Because he believed economic democracy
to be an essential bulwark of political
democracy, Thomas Jefferson favored a
nation of small farmers and merchants. The
events of the past two hundred years have
carried us a long distance away from the
Jeffersonian ideal. Since Jefferson's time,
industrialization and a mushrooming
population have given rise to large and
powerful economic organizations—private
corporate giants, labor unions, professional
and trade associations, and the most powerful
economic organization of all, government.

Still, there has been throughout our
history, and particularly in the last hundred
years, a discernible purpose to diffuse and
check economic power as much as possible
and to preserve in as undiluted a form as
possible those underpinnings of freedom of
economic choice: private profit and
competition.

Once more I sense grumblings of disbelief
and disapproval. How can I talk of diffusion
of power when the big corporations
continually get bigger despite the
anti-monopoly legislation on the books; when
the labor movement centralizes at the
national level in one all-embracing
organization; when agriculture, once called
the last bulwark of individualism, has become
industrial big business; when government
regulatory measures circumscribe economic
freedom of action at every turn, whether it be
enforced and expensive adherence to
environmental protection measures, or
nondiscriminatory hiring practices, or safety
or hygienic standards?

Yet competition—or as the political
scientists might say, countervailing
power—persists among these concentrations
of bigness. Big labor, for example, acts as a
check to big business, and the regulatory
activities of big government are in the main
designed to protect the welfare of individuals
and are in response to public demands for
such protection.

Max Lerner has written that each
civilization has a model which the ordinary
man seeks to emulate. In Athens, it was the
leisure-class citizen with a turn for art and
philosophy; in Rome, it was the
soldier/administrator; in the Middle Ages, the
cleric dreaming of sainthood; in China, the
mandarin scholar; in India, the ascetic; in
France, the courtier; in German and Japanese
history, it was the elite soldier of the Junker
and Samurai classes; and in America, the
businessman.11

That leads us to certain questions: Is the
economic dimension of national purpose the
dominant one? Is our primary urge the pursuit of profit? After all, didn’t Calvin Coolidge say it all in his remark that “the business of America is business”?

My answer is, “Not so, and less so today than before.” The appeal of business as a way of life draws sustenance from the Puritan virtues of austerity and acquisitiveness, from the Faustian spirit of risk and excitement in the pursuit of power, and from the democratic urge to be one’s own boss. As American capitalism has transformed itself since the days of the robber barons into the characteristic model of large corporations run by hired professional management, the relevance of these sources of sustenance for the business spirit has been considerably diminished.

The professional corporate manager, in the business of making money steadily over a long period for his firm, cannot concentrate exclusively on making money here and now. In the words of a former Chairman of Standard Oil of New Jersey, “He must conduct the affairs of the enterprise in such a way as to maintain an equitable and working balance among the claims of the various directly interested groups—stockholders, employees, customers and the public at large.”

Moreover, the vast majority of professional and technical employees of corporations work in a bureaucratized environment not too dissimilar from government. Thanks to the egalitarian function of the income tax, these bureaucrats in private business have only marginally greater opportunities of amassing wealth than their colleagues in government.

The proportion of the work force employed in government has increased, and nobody should enter government service with the idea of making money, unless he operates on a very restricted definition of wealth or is insensitive to the existence of the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth.

As an ever-increasing proportion of the work force in private business is drawn into such service fields as transportation, recreational services, and food retailing, the acquisitive spirit, while never stilled, will find itself competing with the inherent community service aspects of these areas of business endeavor.

Because we as a nation have more than ever before, we seem to want less. It seems particularly true of the younger generation that more important than the opportunity to make a lot of money is the opportunity to do what they want to do for a living.

This brings us to the third dimension of our domestic national purpose—the social aspect. I would define this purpose as to enhance the dignity of the individual by expanding his opportunities for self-development and expression. It is this dimension of national purpose which should serve as the primary beacon in the areas of education, health and welfare, housing and urban affairs, and the administration of justice.

It is also this dimension of national purpose which is at the center of our concerns today—even more than the political and considerably more than the economic.

Because of the increasing pressures of person against person in this shrunken and crowded globe, there have been a growing number of compulsions upon the individual, designed to require him to do things for the general welfare, as well as for his own benefit. We are continually fighting over this difficult boundary line between liberty and responsibility, as in the controversy of the court decisions concerning the rights of accused.

We are also fighting a constant struggle at the boundary between the freedom of the individual and paternal action on the part of the state designed to reconcile individual freedom with the common good. Two controversial issues of today illustrate the character of this struggle: one is the question of forced busing to bring about racial balance and equality of educational opportunity in our public schools; the other is the government’s power, through taxation and welfare payments, to redistribute wealth.

In discussing the external dimension of national purpose, I raised the relevance of national security, arguing that national security was a means, not an end. In a
discussion of the domestic purpose, a parallel can be drawn with respect to the pressures for financial security and the entire panoply of social security, Federal old age and survivors insurance, state unemployment insurance, welfare payments, and the pressures for compulsory health insurance and for a guaranteed annual wage. After all, the Defense Department's greatest competitor for the tax dollar is that other purveyor of security, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Here again, I would argue that all this evidence of a drive for security represents a search for ways in which to satisfy the basic purpose: enhancement of the dignity of the individual. True, dignity does not derive exclusively from one's economic situation. But how difficult it is to maintain one's dignity if he is left impoverished in his old age, or crushed by crippling medical bills, or condemned to live in squalor. In the final analysis, dignity rests on the faith that individuals are beings of infinite value—which is another way of reaffirming the social dimension of national purpose.

The relative weight which we assign to liberty or to security has also been at the crux of many of the issues in civil liberties. Witness the controversy over wiretapping and the role of the FBI and CIA in domestic surveillance. The proper balance in such matters is one on which honest men may honestly differ, but in general I subscribe to the guidance of Ben Franklin: "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty or safety."

INVolVEMENT, RECONCILIATION, AND BALANCE

The national purpose, if it is to have any real meaning, must be something more than a patriotic or nostalgic adherence to a set of symbols. National purpose, as I see it and as I have tried to define it, is a sort of litmus paper against which the key controversial issues of the day are tested. Except to the fanatics on either end of the political spectrum, the rights and wrongs of these issues—or even their degree of congruence with the national purpose—are seldom, if ever, clear-cut. How congruent, for example, is the Equal Rights Amendment or right-to-work legislation with your concept of national purpose?

There are some among us who shy away from taking an interest in contemporary issues, looking upon them as unclean because they are controversial. These people tend to cloak themselves in sentimental hokum by professing allegiance to such unchallengeable institutions as Mom, apple pie, and the great American game of baseball. Such an attitude is a cop-out. In my eyes, the real patriots are those who read themselves into the issues and then develop and express their opinions, either by voting or by any other of the myriad influence-determining ways open to members of a democratic society. The substance of their opinions is not as important as their concern and their willingness to get involved.

If you accept my premise that the concept of national purpose is relevant to current issues, and indeed caught up with them, then it should follow that the direction of national purpose is influenced by the debates over these issues and, more importantly, by the eventual outcomes of these debates, which represent a consensus of sorts, usually expressed in new legislation. This is true, a good early example being the consensus arrived at after much debate in our body of basic law, the Constitution. More often and more importantly, however, the direction of national purpose is foreshadowed by a call to action from an agency of authority—in our case, nearly always the president.

Although Woodrow Wilson was tragically proven wrong in his own case, he was essentially correct when he wrote that the president:

... is the only national voice in affairs. Let him once win the admiration and confidence of the country and no other single force can withstand him, no combination of forces will easily overpower him. His position takes the imagination of the country. ... His is the vital place of action in the system.
Think back, for example, to such clarion calls as Lincoln’s second inaugural, or Franklin D. Roosevelt’s first inaugural, or Kennedy’s inaugural, or Wilson’s Fourteen Points, or Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms.

To redefine and direct the aspirations of an entire people is no easy task, especially if the people are encouraged to speak in a plurality of voices and to treat the statements of their leaders with skepticism. But a president, particularly a newly elected president, is in a good position to restate the national purpose or give it new dimension and meaning.

For this reason, I find myself a bit impatient with those who claim we have lost our sense of national purpose and are adrift. One thing that a study of history teaches us is that each generation, at some time or other, is aware of a lack of consensus about its goals and purposes and engages in some hard soul-searching. Unless we study history carefully, we tend to forget that the choices and issues facing our fathers and grandfathers were not then as black or white as they now appear to us. They were just as murky and difficult as the choices open to us.

Perhaps Americans are an overly introspective race. Excessive contemplation of our navels can breed cynicism, or defeatism, or nearsightedness. But introspection in the form of searching questions as to where we have come and where we should be going is healthy—and essential, if we are to be true to a national purpose.

Our idealized values will always be more or less at war with the pragmatic considerations of choosing between a rock and a hard place. If we define an idealist, in rough paraphrase of a saying of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s, as “a man with both feet planted firmly in the air” and a pragmatist in direct quotation from Disraeli as “one who practices the errors of his forefathers,” I daresay that the vast majority of us would enlist under the banner of pragmatism.

We should be aware, however, that the pursuit and application of the national purpose means the reconciliation of these two divergent tensions, not the victory of one over the other. Dr. Kissinger made the case for a balance in a speech a year ago when he said:

We must, of course, avoid becoming obsessed with stability. An excessively pragmatic policy will be empty of vision and humanity. It will lack not only direction, but also roots and heart.... America cannot be true to itself without moral purpose. This country has always had a sense of mission. Americans have always held the view that America stood for something above and beyond its material achievements. A purely pragmatic policy provides no criteria for other nations to assess our performance and no standards to which the American people can rally.14

Let me close on an upbeat note. I believe we have a national purpose which is just as relevant as ever, and just as important and difficult as ever, to apply as a guide to specific issues. I believe our quadrennial elections and our institution of a strong presidency provide us the opportunity periodically to look closely at ourselves and then chart a course for the next several years. I believe that Carl Sandburg captured the truth in these words:

Always the path of American history has been into the unknown. Always there arose enough of reserves of strength, balances of sanity, portions of wisdom, to carry the nation through to a fresh start with ever-increasing vitality.15

NOTES


