powers go. Look at the other significant nation-states in the world today. There are only two, really—the Soviet Union and mainland China—and we are twice as old as the other two combined already. Once a nation begins throwing its weight around on the world stage, its life-span is seldom much more than our present age. If you take into consideration the rapidly accelerating pace of events of all kinds, you may well conclude that only a miracle will keep our country alive and more or less unchanged through the tricentennial year.

I happen to believe in that miracle. Against the track odds, and bearing in mind all the reasons for pessimism in our particular case, I think the country will survive and, although I am sure it will pass through times of troubles, will be well and happy a hundred years from today.

I cannot give a reason for that, only faith. Faith not only in America, but in the essential educability and good will of human beings. The problems that confront us are not only grave but unprecedented. But, without exception, they are man-made problems. We have learned to cope very well with the world around us, less well with our own blunders and venalities.

But what problems we have created, we can surely also solve if we want to. All it takes is an act of will.

I think we—we Americans, and we members of the human race—have that will, and will exercise it.