

I am delighted to come back to Sanford, and can say without hesitation that you have one of the loveliest cities in all of Florida. It has been a source of regret to me that I have had so little opportunity to form acquaintances here, although some of your natives are among my closest friends. I wouldn't willingly miss an opportunity to follow that lovely drive along the lake into Sanford. Over in Clearwater recently I heard from another Rotarian of your plans to beautify that drive, and commend you for your vision.

It is a source of regret to me that heretofore, although a few of your citizens are among my closest friends, I have had an opportunity to make only a limited number of acquaintances. Today you have graciously given me an opportunity to add to that number.

I'm not quite sure why Mrs. Harper asked me to speak to you, but am so glad she doesn't share the opinion of a colored client of mine for whom I was recently suing a big corporation.

(Joke about Mandy)

I hope you'll pardon me if I speak from notes today. I'm very much like the colored parson who was holding a funeral service for a departed brother. His memory was so bad that he made a practice of noting important data on the underside of his tie.

Mrs. Harper selected as my topic today "Good Government," and as always that is a very appropriate subject for our thought and concern. I have been particularly interested lately in the campaign platforms of our various gubernatorial candidates, for they are the most authoritative expressions of what the foremost students of political science of our day deem to be the desires of the majority of us, the citizens.

In the opinion of these gentlemen, most of whom are known to me personally, and all of whom are of a high order of intelligence and character, you and I are going to vote for that man who can give us increased benefits and governmental services, and either not increase existing taxes, or judiciously place those taxes so that somebody else will have to pay the bulk of them. Any of you who have heard a candidate for governor speak in more than one county or community were undoubtedly amused or amazed, depending on your turn of mind, at the acumen which those men display in leaving a definite impression in the minds of the audience to which he speaks that the problems of that community are his particular concern, and that he, as governor, will pay particular attention to the needs and desires of that community.

I don't raise my voice to criticize the candidates for that practice. It's not their fault--it's your fault, and mine. That's what we look for--that's what we demand--and that's what we get.

Under those circumstances, where most candidates engage, to more or less degree, in that historic practice, be he a candidate for governor, legislature, county commissioner or what not, it is quite a problem for you and me to select a man who will contribute most toward "good government."

May I tell you by way of background, that I have always been interested in government: in school it was my principal concern; after law school, I went to work as an auditor for the State Comptroller that I might know something of the administrative side of government; for several years I was in the Navy, which is a form of government; then I served one term in the legislature, and have gained an inkling of what goes on there.

With that behind, may I suggest to you that the job of selecting a candidate for any governmental job is not a difficult one if you

will keep two things in mind: he must have sense enough to know right from wrong in a majority of cases, and courage enough to do that which he knows to be right. It's as simple as that.

If you were about to go in business as partner of a man there would be two requirements in your mind for him: that he have sense-- and courage.

If you were about to select a man to marry, to be the father of your children --

So it is with candidates for public office. They hold a great deal of your welfare in their hands.

Many years ago there lived a young man who had an idea that was rather peculiar for his time. He thought that if people knew the truth, that it would set them free.

Now the remarkable thing about this young man was not that he knew the truth--for that in some limited way is the privilege of all of us--but that he had the courage to stand by what he knew to be true. Today, not because of his great knowledge, for by his own statement he changed not one tittle of the law, but because of his willingness to suffer and die for that which he knew to be true, you and I have the immeasurable blessing of Christianity, and an opportunity for immortality.