

# Obediently Yours

Logic

This is Logic

I've spoken these words before but not on the radio

To be born free is to be born in debt

To live in freedom without fighting slavery

To profiteer

I have met Southerners who expect and fear a Negro insurrection

I see no purpose in withholding this from general discussion

There may be those within that outcast ten percent of the American people

Who someday will strike back at their oppressors

But to put down that mob, a mob would rise

I'd like to ask, please: who will put down that mob?

I'm an overpaid producer with pleasant reasons to rejoice, and I do

In the wholesome practicability of the profit system

But surely, my right to having more than enough is cancelled

If I don't use that more to help those who have less

I owe the very profit I make to the people I make it from

If this is radicalism, it comes automatically to most of us in show business

It being generally agreed that any public man owes his position to the public

c

That's what I mean when I say I'm your obedient servant

We must, each day, earn what we own

A healthy man owes to the sick all that he can do for them

An educated man owes to the ignorant all that he can do for them

A free man owes to the world's slaves all that he can do for them

And what is to be done is more, much more, than good works

Christmas baskets, bonuses and tips, and bread and circuses

There is only one thing to be done with slaves

Free them

If we can't die in behalf of progress, we can live for it

Progress, we Americans take to mean, a fuller realization of democracy

The measure of progress, as we understand it, is the measure of equality enjoyed by all men

We can do something about that

The way our fighting brothers and sisters looked at it

Some of them dead as I speak these words

The way they looked at it, we're lucky

And they're right, we're lucky to be alive

But only if our lives make life itself worth dying for

We must be worthy of our luck or we are damned

Our lives were spared, but this is merely the silliest of accidents

Unless we put the gift of life to the hard employments of justice

If we waste that gift, we won't have anywhere to hide from the indignation of history

I want to say this

The morality of the auction block is out of date

There is no room in the American century for Jim Crow

Tomorrow's democracy discriminates against discrimination

Its charter won't include the freedom to end freedom

Race hate isn't human nature, race hate is the abandonment of human nature

But this is true

There are alibis for the phenomenal excuses, economic and social

But the brutal fact is simply this

Where the racist lies acceptable, there is corruption

The race haters must be stopped, the lynchings must be stopped

The murderers must be avenged

I come in that boy's name and in the name of all

Who, in this land of ours, have no voice of their own

I come with a call for action  
This is the time for it  
I call for action against the cause of riot  
It won't surprise me if I'm accused in some quarters of inciting to riot  
Well, I'm very interested in riots, I'm very interested in avoiding them  
So I call for action against the cause of riots  
Law is the best action, the most decisive  
It's in the people's power to see to it that what makes lynchings and starts  
wars is dealt with  
Not by well-wishers, but by policemen, and I mean good policemen  
Over several generations  
Maybe there'll be men who can't be weaned away from the fascist vices of rac  
e hate  
But we should deny such men responsibility in public affairs  
Exactly as we deny responsibility to the wretched victims of the drug habit  
There are laws against peddling dope  
There can be laws against peddling race hate  
But every man has the right to his own opinion as an American boasts  
But race hate is not an opinion, it's a phobia  
It isn't a viewpoint, race hate is a disease  
In a people's world, the incurable racist has no rights  
He must be deprived of influence in a people's government  
He must be segregated, as he himself would segregate the colored and Semitic  
peoples  
Anything very big is very simple  
If there's a big race question, there's a big answer to it  
And a big answer is simple, like the word "no"  
America can write her name across this century, and so she will  
If we, the people, brown and black and red  
Rise now to the great occasion of our brotherhood  
It will take courage  
It calls for the doing of great deeds, which means the dreaming of great dre  
ams  
Giving the world back to its inhabitants is too big a job for the merely pra  
ctical  
No one of us will live to see a blameless peace  
We strive and pray and die for what will be here when we're gone  
Our children's children are the ancestors of a free people  
To the generations: the fight is worth it  
And that just about means that my time is up  
When my time's up, I remain as always, obediently yours  
Arjun Ivatury