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The Columbia National Forest in Washington was renamed fifty years ago to honor the life of Gifford Pinchot. Cornelia Bryce Pinchot was one of several speakers at the dedication of the "new" Forest. We thought it fitting to provide the text of Mrs. Pinchot's speech, describing Gifford Pinchot's Conservation ideals. Cornelia emphasized Conservation by capitalizing it throughout her typescript.

ADDRESS (APPROXIMATE WORDING) BY MRS. GIFFORD PINCHOT

AT THE DEDICATION OF GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST, OCTOBER 15, 1949

You will understand how hard it is for me to speak on this occasion, even to thank you for the thoughts you have so beautifully expressed and the tributes you have so generously paid. I know that every word has been heart-felt. Surely you realize how profoundly grateful I am.

Each one of you, The Foresters, Governor Langley, the soil conservationists, the engineers, have expressed, in your own separate fashions, something of the essence of what was Gifford Pinchot in the various fields in which you knew him. I can add nothing to what you have said.

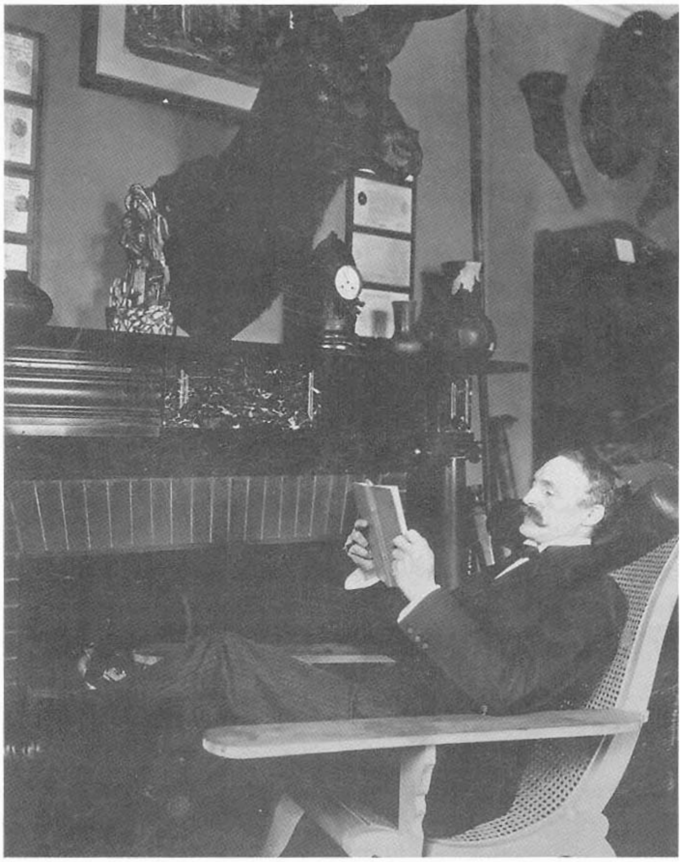
But there is one point I am concerned to bring you which has not been stressed here. That is the ideal of Conservation that was so truly born of Gifford Pinchot's mind and spirit. The Conservation philosophy from which he derives his temporal and earthly immortality.

Beyond preservation of the forests, beyond reclamation of the soil, beyond the various techniques of land use and flood control, over and above and back of all of these stands the philosophy itself, the philosophy of Conservation.

Conservation to Gifford Pinchot was never a vague, fuzzy aspiration. It was concrete, exact, dynamic. The application of science and technology to our material economy for the purpose of enhancing and elevating the life of the individual. The very stuff of which democracy is made.

The Conservation he preached dealt not only with trees—it dealt with the sheep herders and the homesteaders whose means of livelihood in the forest depended upon the kind of protection that was given them. It dealt not only with erosion and flood control, but with the wise use of the land, with the development of the great river valleys in terms of irrigation and power, such as you are so magnificently working out with your Grand Coulee and Bonneville Dams.

It dealt with research, with programs of improvement of country life, with electrification of farms, with rural education.



Gifford Pinchot developed his conservation philosophy over many years, through his studies, acquaintances, and travels around the United States, Europe, Russia, and Asia. Here, he is comfortably surrounded by collections from his adventures. He sits beneath a mounted elk head. On the wall behind the mount is a photograph of one of the Western forest reserves.

FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY COLLECTION

It dealt with equality of opportunity, with control of monopoly. The list is a long one.

Most important, it dealt with the Conservation of natural resources as an international problem affecting issues of permanent peace.

To Pinchot, you see, man himself is a natural resource. The basic resource for whose material, moral and spiritual welfare the Conservation doctrine is invoked. Man, without whose energy, the energy of coal and oil, of electricity, yes of atomic science itself, is inert and meaningless.

Believing, as Pinchot did, that the planned and orderly development of the earth and all it contains is indispensable to the permanent prosperity of the human race, Conservation in its widest sense became to him one of the guiding principles through which such prosperity might be achieved. A bold creative affirmation in spiritual and ethical terms, of our faith in the dignity of man as a child of God.

Pinchot was trained as a forester, he thought as a forester, he felt like a forester. But before he had practiced forestry long, he realized that there were questions with which he as Chief Forester was called upon to deal—questions that on the face of them might seem to have little to do with trees.

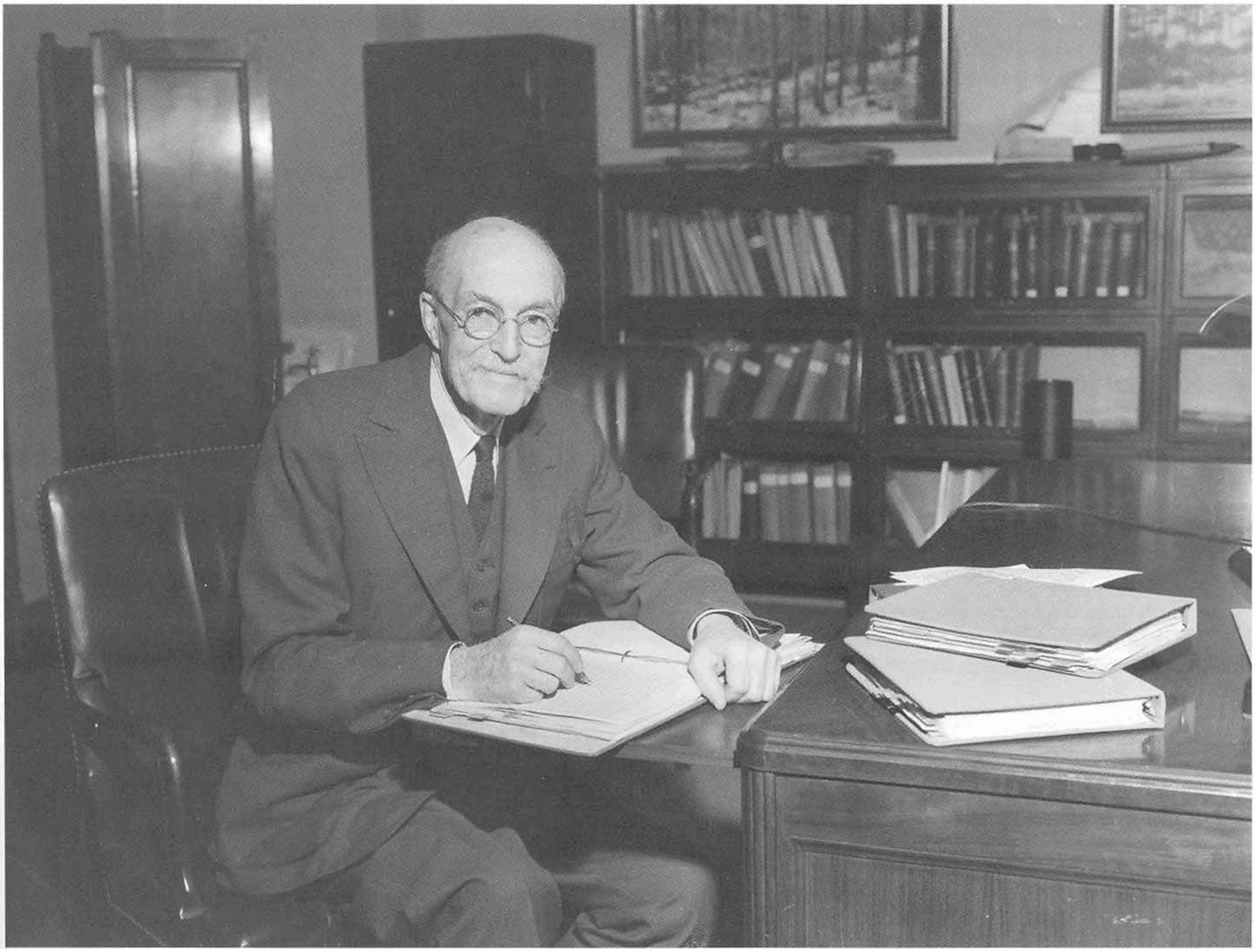
In his autobiography he writes about going out some 42 years ago "in the gathering gloom of an expiring day to ride in Rock Creek Park," and of taking with him on that ride the difficult problems upon which he was constantly at work.

Particularly he was thinking of the relation of the forests not only to streams and erosion, but to inland navigation, to water power developments, to fish and game, to recreation. He was thinking of the danger of monopoly of control of natural resources—about abuses in the exploitation of mineral deposits on public lands—about river valley developments—about soil conservation—about better agriculture.

What had these to do with forestry, he asked himself, and what had forestry to do with them? What was the basic link, if any, between them all?

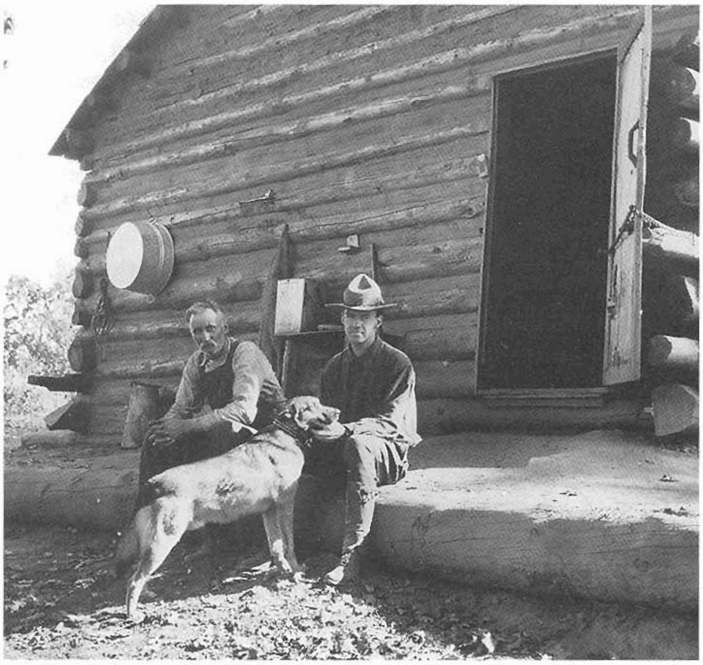
Suddenly the idea flashed through his mind, "Here are no longer a lot of different, independent, often antagonistic questions, each on its own separate little island"—as he, a forester, had been in the habit of thinking. Instead there is one central question—many-sided yes—but still a unit. All so closely connected as to make it imperative they be coordinated and treated as part of a single coherent plan.

Seen in this new light, these separate issues fitted each into the other to make up one central problem—the use of the earth for the good of man.



U.S. FOREST SERVICE PHOTO # 433352

Gifford Pinchot, reviewing the draft copy of his autobiography, Breaking New Ground.



U.S. FOREST SERVICE PHOTO # 82733, 1909

These two "old timers," sit in front of the American Camp Ranger Station, on the Stanislaus National Forest in California. The ranger (left) is P. Y. Lewis. The forest supervisor is R. W. Ayres, a Yale Forest School graduate, who passed the forest assistant's exam in 1904.

To him it was "like coming out of a dark tunnel." He "had been seeing one spot of light ahead, and of a sudden the whole landscape rushed into visibility."

It was a new policy that was needed. A policy not exclusively national—but one world-wide in its scope. A policy that involved not only the welfare of man but his very existence on earth. An international policy in which all nations must eventually cooperate for their fullest development.

In these terms Conservation becomes a matter not primarily of techniques, (as some moderns seem to think) but of democratic policy. Of government policy on the highest level.

Possibly there are some of you Old Timers here—the Old Timers he loved so well—who still remember the great meeting in 1908 called at the instigation of Pinchot by the then President Theodore Roosevelt.

I want to digress here a minute to take the opportunity of bearing witness of how deeply Gifford Pinchot felt always about the debt he owed to the men of the Forest Service. Over and over again he said that to them, to the Old Timers, belonged the real credit for what had been accomplished. Never before or since, he said, had such high morale, such devotion to the public-good, such creative ability been demonstrated in any government body. It was a three way cooperation enterprise—the foresters at one end—the American people at the other—Gifford Pinchot in the middle.

After 40 years this spirit still persists, still animates the Forest Service. Today this Service is still outstanding in its high morale, its devotion to duty, its creative and imaginative leadership. It still sets a pace that many government departments might be well advised to follow.

Only a few weeks ago two men spoke to me in glowing terms of the Forest Service as the best body of public servants in Washington. They both referred (in entirely different conversations) to its energy, its courage, to the selfless devotion and drive of its personnel. They felt that the Forest Service stands today perhaps highest of all government organizations.

But to go back to the Conservation meeting in 1908—there for the first time in history the idea of Conservation was spelled out to the American people in terms so simple as to be understood by all.

First they were made to realize that our natural resources are not inexhaustible. That, on the contrary, these are being destroyed and wasted at a rate that is disastrous and may soon become fatal.

The point was then driven home to the people that the natural resources of the country are a national heritage, to be-made use of in establishing and promoting the welfare, the prosperity, and the happiness of the American people.

Hitherto, said the president, our national policy had been one of almost unrestricted destruction of these resources. It was a policy that had led and was leading to exhaustion of many of them. Moreover, it was a policy that gave unequalled opportunity for private monopoly. And "monopoly can no longer be tolerated" he proclaimed over and over again.

"In the past," Roosevelt continued, "we have admitted the right of the individual to injure the future of the Republic for his own present profit. The time has come to put an end to such exploitation..."

Always the protection of the rights of the people marched side by side with the technology of forest management, with the development of water power, extraction of minerals, etc.

Always the emphasis was laid upon the social purpose of Conservation—the greatest good to the greatest number for the longest time. Always the conception stressed that Conservation is not a series of independent issues—but one central problem to be faced and solved as such.

U.S FOREST SERVICE PHOTO

President Theodore Roosevelt and Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot, on the river steamer Mississippi, *during a trip of the Inland Waterways Commission, in 1907. Both men understood the broad doctrines of conservation, and the political ramifications of protecting forests and waters. Twenty state governors accompanied the commission on this trip.*

Two years later Gifford Pinchot projected his insight into the Conservation philosophy still further. This time to the international field. To the relationship between Conservation and the question of peace.

Why, in the long role of history, had man so persistently gone out to do battle with his fellow man? Could certain central issues be traced that underlay and explained these endless wars?

Obviously from time immemorial men had fought either to grab from their neighbors or to defend their own possession, of the best hunting grounds, the most fertile plains, of protected harbors, of lands richest in mineral deposits. In early days the thinking was in terms of iron, copper, gold; later coal and oil were included. Today nations are turning covetous eyes on rubber, on deposits of tin, manganese, chrome, molybdenum, bauxite and uranium (except for rubber, natural resources, all of these—nonrenewable resources at that).

No single nation is self-sufficient in all the essential raw materials it needs, Pinchot pointed out. The welfare of each is dependent upon access to those it lacks—access without recourse to war. Moreover, the world is beginning to understand that, instead of its being in the interest of any one nation to see another depressed, it is to the interest of each and all to see the rest secure.

Could such access to raw materials be brought about by mutual consent on an international basis?

Well, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, President Truman, each one in his time believed that Conservation on the international level could and would help to remove one of the most dangerous of all obstacles to a just and permanent world peace. They believed that international cooperation in Conservation objectives most certainly would be of basic advantage to the entire world.

In 1909 a formal invitation was sent out by Theodore Roosevelt to 48 nations to join together in an international conference on the subject of natural resources and their inventory, conservation, and wise utilization.

Some 30 of these countries, including among them Great Britain, France, Germany, Canada, and Mexico, accepted. Most unfortunately, however, for the cause of peace, Roosevelt's successor, President Taft, whose failure to support domestic Conservation precipitated a major political revolt, decided to recall the invitation and to kill the conference.

Wilson, Harding and Hoover were in turn approached but all failed to act. In 1944 we went to see Franklin Roosevelt. The story of that meeting is both exciting and dramatic. For F. D. R. with his broad and imaginative understanding of history, grasped and immediately welcomed the full significance of the idea. Pledged himself to the calling of such an international conference and asked how soon it might be put through. He authorized Pinchot to draw up an agenda, and to draft whatever government officials he might want for the doing of it.

In a letter to Cordell Hull, dated October 24, 1944, F. D. R. wrote:

> "In our neetings with other nations I have a feeling that too little attention is being paid to the subject of the conservation and use of natural resources. I am surprised that the world knows so little about itself.…It occurs to me, therefore, that even before the United Nations meet ... it might do much good to hold a meeting in the United States of all of the united and associated nations ... I repeat again that I am more and more convinced that Conservation is a basis of permanent peace. I think the time is ripe."

After F. D. R.'s death, President Truman, who had given the matter much close personal attention, went ahead on it. In August 1946, he sent to the United Nations as the American plan a formal proposal for such a conference.

This conference so conceived and so born took place last August at Lake Success. It was known as the Conservation and Scientific Conference. The story of this conference is a tragic one too long to go into here. Suffice it to say that the moral and social, the economic and political objectives of Conservation, its democratic significance were rigidly ignored by the men of little faith and many fears who organized the conference. Even more unbelievable, all mention of peace and war in relation to conservation was deliberately and definitely excluded from the agenda.

The sterile mouse that emerged, while excellent on the technical side and adequate enough on most of the scientific, had obviously no right to lay claim to the name of Conservation in which it was conceived.

So deplorable a retreat from so noble an opportunity was bitterly resented by many of the delegates who had been looking forward to a great upsurge of sentiment from the peoples they represented. Delegates who understood what

NAMING HISTORY OF THE GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST

February 20, 1893	February 22, 1897	March 1, 1898	March 2, 1907	July 1, 1908	July 15, 1949
Pacific National Forest established	Pacific National Forest combined with other lands to form Mount Rainier National Forest	Mount Rainier National Forest effective date	Lands added to Mount Rainier National Forest and name changed to Rainier National Forest	Part of Rainier National Forest lands divided to form the Columbia National Forest	Columbia National Forest name changed to Gifford Pinchot National Forest

such developments as TVA (and those you are so imaginatively building here on the Columbia River) might mean, do mean, in terms of inspiration to literally hundreds of millions of impoverished and hopeless people of Europe, Asia and Africa.

However, to dwell too narrowly and too long on the details of the past, while it may be good history, it is not necessarily sound Conservation. By which I mean that the problems of today differ at least in many superficial ways from those of yesterday.

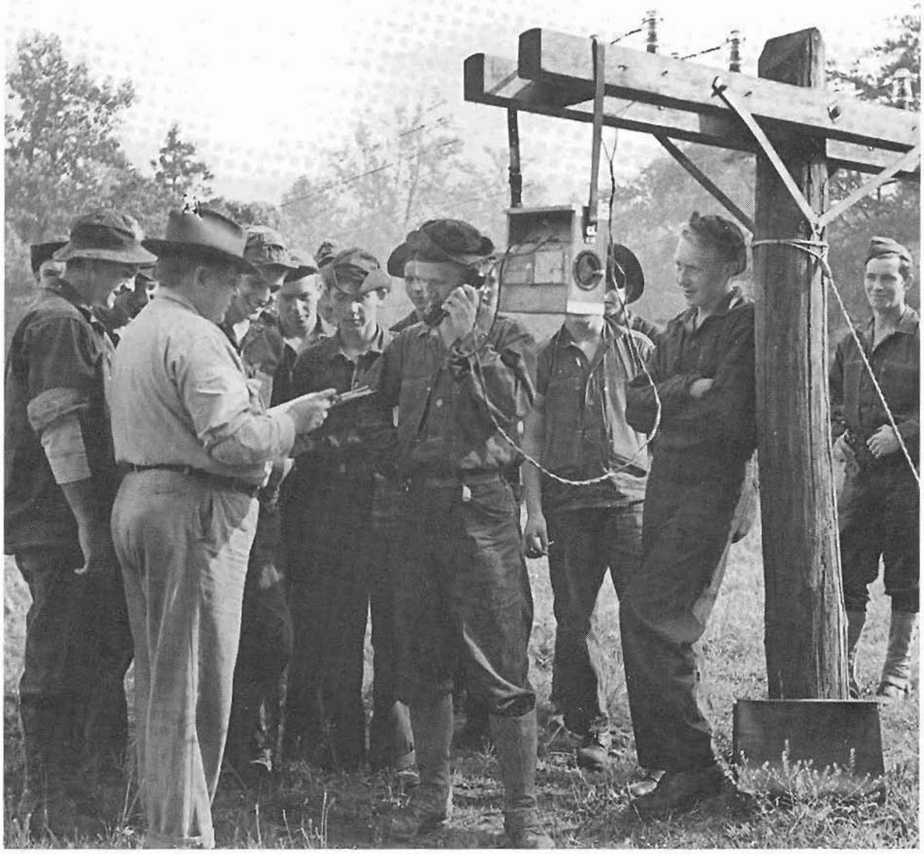
No one understood better than Gifford Pinchot that the battlefields of the future in certain respects must necessarily take different forms from those of the past.

For one thing many concrete victories have been achieved since Conservation was first promulgated as an American doctrine—victories that will stand for all time. In the intervening years new and breathtaking techniques have been worked out, scientific truths laid bare, that were not even foreshadowed in those early days. Even more important—new problems that are constantly arising—new needs of the American people that are coming into being. Problems and needs that demand new applications of the Conservation philosophy.

The CCC camps, the Shelterbelts, some of the recent techniques in the development of the TVA and the Columbia River are cases in point. As is the bold new doctrine of President Truman and his statesmanlike vision in building up the peoples of backward nations. All of which hold inspiration and great hope for the future.

Gifford Pinchot was always the first to proclaim the principle of growth, of development and of renewal as central to the Conservation idea.

He insisted that Conservation must be reinvigorated, revived, remanned, revitalized by each successive generation. Its implications, its urgencies, its logistics, translated in terms of the present by each of them. Always he pointed out that the victories and achievements of Conservation must never be regarded as an excuse for complacency, but only as an incentive to further goals.



Civilian Conservation Corps members receive instruction in telephone line maintenance and operation, at Camp F24, on the Jefferson National Forest in Virginia.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE PHOTO # 367212, TAKEN BY B. W. MUIR, 1938

He, therefore, welcomed the rediscovery of Conservation by successive Presidents and political leaders. Conservationists, you know, believe in the renewal of natural resources. And such political renewals constitute of themselves a prolific resource in our national political life.

Conservation is today more than ever a philosophy of dynamic democracy. Still to be conceived not only in terms of science and techniques, but primarily in relation to men and to women. Their needs. Their aspirations. Their social demands. That fact is what gives Conservation its basic unity. As such it is central to the domestic and international objectives of the American people.

With his deep insight into the wellsprings of democratic action, with his abiding concern in the ethical and spiritual bases of American life, Gifford Pinchot provided the initial leadership in applied Conservation.

Fearless, zealous, practical and creative, a man "who never turned his back, but marched breast forward" he blazed the trail.

Upon those of us who are left, upon the young men and women of the future rests the responsibility and the glory of the long march ahead to greater opportunity—to more perfect freedom. □