

Nov. 7 - 1935

Architect Lodge has made me very happy, ~~tonight~~, and let me say from my heart that tonight has meant very much to me. All the ~~rest of~~ my life I <sup>shall</sup> cherish the <sup>thought</sup> ~~privilege~~ of coming here to Architect Lodge <sup>thought</sup> ~~for the second time~~ to take part in the work of the Third Degree for my own sons. And, of course, this last <sup>act of</sup> ~~touch~~ from you good people in making me an Honorary Member, <sup>giving</sup> ~~an opportunity for all the rest of my life~~ to be a member of the same Lodge to which my boys belong -- that is something I shall never forget.

To me the ceremonies of Freemasonry in this State of ours, especially these later ones that I have taken part in, always make me wish that more Americans, in every part of our land, could become connected with our Fraternity.

Since I have seen you last I have travelled in many foreign lands. I have come in contact with Brother Masons throughout this country, and I have seen the splendid work that Masonry is doing for our fellowmen. I have seen that same work in our distant possessions, in our territories; I have seen it even in those <sup>islands</sup> ~~islands~~ in the Pacific <sup>to</sup> ~~through~~ which I have travelled during these past two years.

~~and~~ the more I come in contact with the work of the Masonic Fraternity ~~in all these lands~~ the more impressed I am, by the great charitable work and the great practical good which <sup>we</sup> ~~the Masonic Fraternity~~ is carrying out, especially in that line which is so close to my heart - the care of little children.

~~and~~ Not only in that work but, ~~also~~ also in acting as a leaven for a better society and <sup>better</sup> ~~good~~ citizenship wherever it may be. ~~and~~ I violate no confidence in saying that I wish the same could be said of Masonry in other lands. Today, as you doubtless know, <sup>we</sup> in our own nation ~~we~~ are still pro-

ceeding under orderly government, under the same form of government under which our fathers lived, and so far as <sup>the broad affairs of</sup> ~~our great~~ government ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> concerned, we are making <sup>definite</sup> progress from day to day.

I wish that this could be said of all other nations. It is unfortunate for us that in certain other nations Freemasonry, <sup>through</sup> ~~through~~ <sup>no</sup> ~~no~~ fault of its own, <sup>sometimes</sup> because of the rise of new forms of government, has lost much of the strength and force for a good civilization which it possessed several generations ago. And so I am not heartened by what is occurring in other nations. Because of this leaven of Masonry throughout our own country, because of the opportunity given to pursue an even course in a democratic society, the way of Masonry in this country constantly grows smoother.

And that is why I ~~sometimes~~ feel we can give thanks for <sup>giving</sup> ~~being~~ in America. And in giving thanks we should not do as the Pharisees did -- <sup>giving</sup> ~~not give~~ thanks that we are not as other men, <sup>are</sup> but rather to <sup>giving</sup> ~~give~~ thanks the Good Samaritan way, for the Good Samaritan went out of his course to help his less fortunate fellow-citizens. That is the rule we must follow as Freemasons. We are approaching Thanksgiving, and I believe that we should give thanks, and at the same time pray that our nation may grow more and more a force for peace in the rest of the world.

I have missed here tonight some of the faces I have known in former years. I am especially sorry that a very old friend and associate of mine, Charlie <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ Johnson, is not with us tonight. I ~~just~~ learned tonight that he has been so seriously ill. I do not believe there is a man in this State who is loved by a greater circle of friends than Charlie Johnson.

And so I can say to you good Brethren of Architect Lodge,  
and to your Worshipful Master, that I am very grateful to you,  
and I have had a wonderful party tonight.

MR. EARLY: I think you can tell us all about your departure plans tomorrow -- the visit to the City (of New York).

THE PRESIDENT: We will leave about three o'clock tomorrow and motor down. It has been a couple of years since we have motored down.

Q Not since you have been President.

Q The last time was right before Inauguration.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is right. I want to see the river and go to 49 East 65th and dress. Then I will go down -- I don't know what the time of the dinner is -- to the Masonic Temple.

MR. EARLY: Will the dinner be at the Masonic Temple?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, just a very small dinner with the officers of the Grand Lodge.

Q The dinner at the Temple?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, only ten or fifteen at the dinner, and then the ceremonies after that. We will get through between ten and eleven and then I will go to the train and be back in Washington at 8.30 the next morning.

MR. EARLY: You omitted one very important thing: What time will the train leave?

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you a lot of time -- one o'clock.

Q Do you have an active part in the ceremonies, or are you merely going to be present?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q I saw something in the New York papers that you were going to induct.

THE PRESIDENT: Probably assist in it.

Q What degree is he taking, the Third Degree?

THE PRESIDENT: Third degrees -- Franklin and Jimmy. Elliott went in



before I went down to Washington.

Q Are you taking Jim Farley along with you, Mr. President? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I had him at the Shriners, you remember that? him and Joe Kennedy.

Did you ever hear of the hoax I pulled on Joe Kennedy?

MR. EARLY: At the Shriners? That is a good story.

THE PRESIDENT: This is off the record. I said to Joe before the Shriners' Parade, "You know, I am all alone. Why don't you come and join me at it?" He said, "My God! I go to the Shriners' Parade?"

I said, "Sure, Jim Farley is coming." I didn't know whether he was but he did. And he said, "Jim is coming? Is that a command?" And I said, "Sure."

And so Joe arrives and Jim Farley too. It was a terribly rainy night; it did not last very long, only about a quarter of a parade.

They went back -- Joe had been sliding behind the police all the time so that the photographer wouldn't get him -- and he went up to <sup>[Hyannis port]</sup> Hainesport. I waited about two and a half weeks and at the end of July I sent him a telegram. I picked any old name out of the telephone book, John Turner or something like that: "Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy. In accordance with our delightful conversation the night of the Shriners' Parade, will it be convenient for you to go through the ceremony the first week of September? A large and distinguished gathering will be here to welcome you. Please wire as quickly as possible to Admiral Cary T. Grayson." Cary did not know anything about this either. "We