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THE LAST SUPPER

SPEECH

OF

HON. HUEY P. LONG

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. LONG. Mr. President and Members of the Senate: Those here who are broad-minded enough to envision the whole American country and the entire human family, who nevertheless feel persuaded or compelled to vote for the pending bill will, on mature reflection, I am satisfied, be very sore at heart.

I think it is well within the knowledge of every Member of the Senate that this country has not enough food products upon which the people as a whole can survive. There is not enough material raised upon the farm today adequately to clothe the members of the human family who reside within the confines of these 48 States.

This statement is based on figures which are not disputable. These are accepted facts published by the same Department of Agriculture which asks for the passage of the pending bill to restrict the production of agricultural commodities. In other words, we have found an abundance and we have found starvation in that abundance, and we have undertaken to correct the condition by destroying the abundance or restricting what might be sufficient to care for the human family.

This policy has grown to such a degree that those of us who undertake to oppose it are almost from necessity compelled to try to get the people under that faulty shelter. We undertake to secure distribution, but the learned and scholarly men of the Senate have directed their results to the side pocket. They have apparently been unable to get anything done or to carry themselves along on the course which might mean distribution in the country of our abundance. So the feast of the Lord, to which all have been invited, has been made impossible for the many, for the table is emptied or partly emptied, so there will be no food left upon the table except for those able to pay the price.

And as the number able to pay for the food to sustain life is reduced, this proposed law would curtail the food the earth produces to the amount those who can buy can consume.

What has become of this command of the prophet:

Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Lazarus lies at the gate of the rich man crying for the crumbs that fall from the table. Do we undertake to correct that? Yes? But not by feeding Lazarus. We provide there shall be no crumbs.

The significant and outstanding episode of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, to my mind, is this from the words of the Savior:

The Son of Man goeth as is written; but woe unto that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It had been good for that man if he had not been born.

How wide is the application of "that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed"? That it may be understood, I read the words of the Savior which immediately preceded the Last Supper:

Then shall they also answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee? Then shall He answer them, saying, Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, my children, ye did it not to me.

Humanity, therefore, confronts us in the person of our Savior; mankind is the Lord. In the life of a being placed on this earth in the image of God, there is the Son of Man. Deny that person food to eat, and you have starved the Lord; take from that person, however low or ragged he may be, the shelter which protects life and gives comfort, and you have turned the Lord into darkness. Our Savior is with us now. "Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever." He has told us where he may be found and how he may be

served, when and how he is denied or abandoned. It is all in the duty which one performs or fails to perform to the creatures of God on earth.

He who has committed a man, woman, or child to misery or want has betrayed the Father. "It would have been good for that man had he not been born."

Palaces abound in our land that once was fair. The milk and honey has flowed here in all the abundance promised by the Almighty. In the midst of the Lord's splendor humanity began to find its most severe discomfort; the cry of the starving was loudest, the nakedness was greatest. People struggled; they cried; many of them have fallen.

God was betrayed! "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."

Who stands before the bar most accursed for this crime? The Government of the United States. The rulers in money and affairs use our organized society to glorify their greed. The shelter erected for the weak has become the fort of the mighty. From that position of vantage they hurl their decrees at the downtrodden.

The world yet visions aghast the plight of Judas at that Passover! We read into the lines of the Scripture the downcast and convicted Judas as the Savior's eyes pierced into his soul. We echo the words from Judas: "Is it I?", answered by the Lord: "Thou hast said."

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But the accusing eyes of the Savior looked and still look further, then as now, into the hearts of men, the betrayers of Christ. Whosoever asks, "Is it I?" hears the answer: "As ye did it not to one of the least of these."

The creatures of God on earth, men, women, and children, cry in their woe. The eyes of the multimillionaire and the billionaire and of the kings and rulers reflect the stare and reecho the words of Judas: "Is it I?", while the misery of the millions answers, "Thou hast said." The few have all; the many have nothing. Starvation persists in the land that can have too much for all.

America! Christian nation! What?

We read of the starving, of the naked, and of the homeless—the misery of the beggar which makes the rich greater. The money changer is not driven from the temple. No! He is here. He drives the Lord from his own shelter. "The least of these!"

Can we longer claim our existence as a nation in the name of Christ our Savior? What mockery are our public prayers! How idle, how cruel the gesture! How ignorant our cries at the Judas who betrayed the Savior 2,000 years ago! That Judas has hanged himself in repentance. But our scions of wealth and power, our overlords who have betrayed the Savior and turned Him away in destitution, hang the victim rather than to emulate the one virtue of Judas, to hang themselves in repentance.