

"We must learn to honour excellence in every socially accepted human activity, however, humble the activity, and to scorn shoddiness, however exalted the activity. An excellent plumber is infinitely more admirable than an incompetent philosopher. The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water."

The nations of the West today are challenged as never before; from without by powerful and dynamic ideologies alien to our ideals, and from within by the tendencies towards apathy and inertia to which I have referred. If we remain true to our great ideals, if we regain and strengthen the spiritual quality of our lives, if we are wise enough to possess the foresight which the times demand and if we will pursue the great Olympian virtues of internationalism and excellence, I have no doubt that we shall master our challenge.

But this will not come easily. It will require great efforts on the part of our peoples and great leadership on the part of our statesmen. Just like the champion athlete we must resist the fatal temptation toward complacency and resting on our laurels. This was never put better to my mind than by the beloved American poet, the late Robert Frost who in one of his best poems entitled "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening" concluded this way:

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep."