

The essence of the Iron Curtain lies, of course, precisely in this; it is the attempt by men who are in dread of human nature and fear the real forces of history, to prevent free contacts and the exchange of ideas between individuals; to obstruct the growth of neighbourliness. They fear this development of a sense of community because it is something bigger than any man can control. What tyrants cannot control they fear, and try to destroy.

By the same token, we who are free must be on guard lest our own societies prove vulnerable to the contagion of this evil virtue of the fear of ideas.

If we become afraid of certain words and ideas because of their bad association in the past, or because the totalitarians have tried to give them evil meanings; if we hedge in our arguments or in our expressions in order to avoid having a label pinned on us, then that free exchange of ideas which is the life blood of democracy - and which is poison to communism - is weakened and placed in jeopardy. So is the cohesion and unity of the democratic community - and democratic neighbourliness.

Today in the relations between the communist and non-communist worlds a lessening of fear and suspicion must be the first step toward anything that even approaches neighbourliness. When this takes place ideas can be exchanged and contacts made. These may not end in any deep friendship, but that perhaps may not be necessary if they produce some understanding. The editor of this "New Yorker" magazine (I can't remember his exact words) once said something like this "Don't try to love your neighbour. It may only make him uncomfortable. Try to earn and deserve his respect". Good advice, at least politically speaking.

There is another reason why we must keep everlastingly trying to extend the boundaries of good neighbourhood - the H-Bomb. A hundred years ago the people of a village had to be united against a common menace like fire. They banded together to prevent it, isolate it, or extinguish it. If a fire was allowed to begin and spread, good and bad neighbours suffered together. Today the world is a village against the awful menace of nuclear weapons that can destroy it and ensure that its people, the good and the bad, to perish together.

We should remember these things, - the danger to freedom from exaggerated fears; the certainty of common universal destruction if nuclear war comes, as we enter, in diplomacy and in international affairs, a new period where trench warfare is being replaced by manoeuvring in the open. This will give us new opportunities, but will confront us also with some new problems, and the same old dangers. It is certainly no time to lower guard or weaken our defences; to take things easy. The world is still a dangerous place for the weak and unwary. There are, however, greater opportunities now than there were before the strong and the wise and the patient to take advantage of an international situation which seems now to be more fluid, so that progress can be made toward the right kind of peace; and even toward global co-operation.

We are approaching meetings at the "summit", incidentally not always the most comfortable place for meetings, and on the foreign ministers' level, which is also, I naturally insist, fairly high up! In my opinion these meetings are to be welcomed;