

ROTARY GOLDEN ROUND TABLE
"The World We Know"
(International Understanding)

ANNCR: The Rotary Club of (Name City), in cooperation with Radio Station _____ brings you a projection of the drama you have just heard --- a discussion by local community leaders of the community problems dramatized in Rotary Golden Theatre. What can we, here in (Name City) do to help overcome hate and distrust and to promote understanding and good will throughout the world? Our very survival, as individuals, as a city and as a nation, may depend on finding the answer to this question.

Rotary Golden Round Table, a local contribution to the world-wide observance of Rotary International's Fiftieth Anniversary, feels that discussion is the start toward accomplishment. So, for the next 15 minutes, let's think about the "world we know" and what we can do to make it a better, safer world for ourselves and our children.

Members of our Golden Round Table to discuss this question are:

Mr. A _____, _____ (Identification) _____;

Mr. B _____, _____ (Identification) _____; and

Mr. C _____, _____ (Identification) _____.

Gentlemen, this is a very big, a very complicated and a very far-reaching problem. Can we as individuals and as a community really contribute to solving the problem of world-wide distrust and preventing another major war? Mr. A, what do you have to say about that?

MR. A: Certainly we can! We have just listened to a dramatized story which may have seemed rather fantastic. But, was it? If it were possible to devise some magic formula which would assure world peace, most of us would be willing to make any sacrifice to accomplish that purpose. Since we don't have any magic formula, we fail to make the best use of those facilities we do have at hand.

ANNCR: Such as what?

MR. A: Well, to begin with, I believe that the first step in preventing war is through exactly this kind of discussion as to the causes of war and of our determination to overcome them.

MR. B: I take it that you feel that peaceful co-existence between two opposing systems of government is possible then?

MR. A: I think its a choice between co-existence or no existence for all of us. While there is peace, we have a chance to prove that our way of life is better than theirs. But even the victor in an atomic war would find it impossible to preserve his own system, let alone impose it on others. Any way of settling differences between nations is better than war, for war never solves any problems. It merely creates new ones - and worse ones.

ANNCR: Mr. C, what do you think we as individuals living in (Name City), can do to help eliminate world-wide hatred and war?

MR. C: As you said, Mr. _____, its a very large and complicated problem. There is no single or simple solution to it. I do feel that we can begin to find solutions if we understand some of the causes. The basic cause of hate is fear. Fear comes from distrust, and distrust stems from prejudice and ignorance. We all tend to distrust someone whose philosophies and methods are different from our own. Unfortunately, about all we may know about the people in a far-off country are some of the supervicial differences in their thinking and ours. We seldom have an opportunity to learn their similarities and common ideals.

ANNCR: Do you mean that we should offer a blind trust in human nature in return for those who would destroy our system of government, and our way of living, if given half a chance?

MR. C: Not a bit! Let me answer you by asking a hypothetical question. Two men are walking separately through an area that is heavily infested with snakes. Both of them hate snakes - but one of them has always shut his eyes to their very existence. He knows nothing about them. The other, however, has carefully studied their habits. He can tell the difference between the poisonous and non-poisonous at a glance. He even knows what to do in case he should be bitten. Now, frankly, which of those men has the greatest chance of survival?

ANNCR: I see what you mean. Then you feel that education--learning more about other people and understanding them--is the key to overcoming fear and hatred?

MR. C: I would say that it is one of the keys. Another is to understand ourselves better. Still another is to help other people understand us. Remember, understanding and respect is a two-way proposition.

MR. A: _____ C _____, you said fear is the basic cause of hate. It's hard to realize that apparently people living in some other countries are afraid

- MR. A: (CONT.) of us or suspect our motives. At least writers and commentators from abroad say this is true.
- MR. C: Unfortunately that is so. And certain propaganda agencies are working night and day to encourage that fear.
- MR. B: Then aren't you being a bit optimistic in thinking that we, as ordinary citizens, can do much to help people of certain other countries understand us? They have their minds made up for them - to fear and hate us.
- MR. C: Perhaps this is the area of international understanding where we are most helpless. We have many opportunities in those areas where avenues of communication are open. But I do not think we should despair entirely, even in those countries where the normal avenues are closed. No government can control completely the thoughts of its people. Indeed, the very exercise of control tends to make them feel that they are not getting the whole truth. Information seeps through, and spreads. Visitors to our country carry back impressions. Radio can reach great distances with our story, and its message is eagerly heard and repeated. As ordinary citizens, we can do a great deal to support these exchanges of persons and ideas.
- MR. B: C, you said that fear is a basic cause of hate and war. What about fear caused by weakness? Isn't that the best argument for keeping our own country strong?
- MR. C: Yes, it certainly is. And our strength must not only be in guns, planes and bombs. We need to be strong economically and spiritually as well.
- ANNCR: Gentlemen, I think this discussion so far has helped all of us to understand "Our World" a great deal better. Suppose we try to take an even closer look at the "World We Know." Mr. B, what do you think we can do to overcome fear, distrust and hate in the world right here at home?
- MR. B: I'd like to answer that by referring you to the first principle of Rotary-- the development of acquaintance as a basis for personal service. As you may have gathered, I believe that good will and understanding begin at home. You remember that Will Rogers said, "I never met a man I didn't like." Not all of us have the mellowness of Will Rogers, but I daresay that very few people can dislike anyone they really know. Actually, I think we like people as much for their faults as for some of the fine and noble things about them.
- MR. A: You know, I've noticed for many years that people who really work at being of service to their community, are invariably the people who recognize the

- MR. A: (CONT.) rights and dignity of people everywhere. Or, reversing that idea, I've never seen a man who took an active interest in the affairs of his own community who would ever say, "let the rest of the world go hang."
- ANNCR: Mr. B, what are some of the local community projects of Rotary International which you feel help to accomplish this far-reaching result of helping to overcome distrust and hate everywhere?
- MR. B: (Mention several local projects). Rotary Clubs all over the world are engaged in countless projects along these lines. In Brisbane, Australia, for example, Rotarians send newspapers to South Africa, and Richmond (Virginia) Rotarians send medical text-books to Korean physicians. Rotarians in Columbiana, Ohio, operate a school of English instruction for displaced persons. The International Peace Park uniting Alberta, Canada, and Montana, is a joint project of Rotary Clubs. Exchange programs between Rotary Clubs in Hilo, Hawaii, and Hiroshima, Japan, were broadcast over their national radio networks. Essay contests are sponsored, friendships are formed with overseas students at nearby universities. And of course Rotary is actively engaged in international student scholarship programs. All of these projects and hundreds more help to overcome distrust and hate with friendship.
- MR. A: Let's not overlook the part of our educational system in helping to eliminate distrust and hate. Incidentally, I've found that school children today are likely to appreciate that the world is smaller than we once thought it was, far better than some of the grownups. In other words, a high school student thinks in terms of Capetown or Tokyo being only a few hours away instead of how many thousand miles it is. As a result, they have developed a keen interest in the lives and problems of people living in other countries far beyond what we had as children.
- ANNCR: Mr. A, some people have claimed that the school systems go too far in this business of teaching so-called global thinking. Do you think there is any sound basis for that charge?
- MR. A: Definitely not! There may be rare instances, of course, but it is the duty of the schools to teach patriotism and good citizenship. We feel that it is also the school's responsibility to teach respect for the rights of others. In high schools and colleges, students are also entitled to know something about other philosophies and systems of government. I hope that the day will never come again when schools will feel called upon to teach

MR. A: (CONT.) a doctrine of hatred for any group of people, either at home or in another country.

MR. C: A _____, I'd like to go a step further and say that we here in (Name City) are proud of the job our schools are doing in moulding better citizens. And I think that we will all agree that the children growing up today do have a greater feeling of tolerance and a better understanding of world problems than we older people had at that period of our own lives.

ANNCR: Thank you gentlemen, for your fine contributions to this discussion on the "World We Know," and helping bring to all of us a greater appreciation that this problem of overcoming distrust and hate throughout the world is one which demands the best from all of us. Certainly one of the great hopes for lasting peace in the world is the influence of organizations such as Rotary International. Your organization is proving by deeds as well as principles that people of good will can unite for the betterment of people everywhere. Well, that just about winds up this session of Rotary Golden Round Table. Next week, Rotary Golden Theatre will present a drama built around another problem that affects all of us. And then, immediately following as a local observance of Rotary's Golden Anniversary, Rotary Golden Round Table will present a discussion of that problem as it applies to (Name City). Our panel next week will consist of: (NAMES AND IDENTIFICATIONS OF LOCAL PANEL MEMBERS) -- all well qualified to discuss the subject to be presented. Be sure to be with us next week for another program presented by the Rotary Club of (Name City) and Station _____ as a public service-- in your interest.