

# OCPA FaxLine Report

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Dear OCPA Member:

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

America seems to be in “crisis mode.” We need to realize that these problems have not been caused merely because of Fannie and Freddie, or the stock market collapse, or stimulus packages and bailout plans. No, these are only symptoms of something more serious that’s been going on for a long time. This has been revealed to me in one of the most insightful speeches I’ve ever had the privilege to read.

Dr. John A. Howard, Senior Fellow of The Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, gave a speech at the Rockford (Illinois) Rotary Club in 2007 entitled “Liberty Revisited” in which he identifies the root cause of the calamity befalling our society. This speech, which received the Grand Award in a 2007 national contest for speechwriters sponsored by *Vital Speeches* and the *Executive Speaker*, is unsettling because it rings so true you actually can hear it resonating, not only in your head but also *in your heart*. It forces one to consider the reality of the temporal nature of party politics contrasted with the eternal nature of moral authority.

Dr. Howard served in the First Infantry Division in World War II, returning with two silver stars and two purple hearts, “and a commitment to use his career to sustain and strengthen America’s religious ideals,” for which many of his friends have given their lives. Having served in the Eisenhower Administration, then later as President of Rockford College for seventeen years and also for three years as National President of the American Association of Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities, Dr. Howard speaks with a clarity that is as refreshing as it is revealing.

In his valuable, important and timely speech he states, “For a long time, Meg Greenfield wrote the editorials on the last page of Newsweek. On December 14, 1998, when she knew she didn’t have long to live, she wrote a chilling wake-up call to America. It seems to have disappeared down the memory hole without causing even a sigh from the dormant conscience of the readers. Her opening statement was, ‘You look around political Washington for a public figure in an important position of power who also has moral authority, and you will find none. Those in the leadership of both parties who have not been dirtied up in their own political scandals have leapt eagerly to the defense of those on their side who have, shamelessly justifying every kind of sleaziness committed by their party on the ground that the other side does it, too... or that the campaign needed the money... or that the other side over-reacted... or something.’

Dr. Howard states, “The situation she describes is, itself, cause for dismay, but the shattered principle it reflects foretells grave and lasting troubles for us. We need to know that morality is the essential and irreplaceable foundation of a free society. For several generations Americans have not known how precious freedom is to the human soul.” He adds, “The absence of moral authority in government, so painfully lamented by Meg Greenfield now spreads across the whole spectrum of vocations. And liberty languishes.” (Read: <http://www.profam.org/docs/jah/thc.jah.liberty.0704.htm> ) Dr. Howard’s speech should be read by every American. I hope you will do so *now!*

Until next time . . . Brett A. Magbee, Vice President for Operations

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