

THOSE WHO SHOUT THE LOUDEST WRITE THE HISTORY

By

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28 Plays Later 2019

Day 12

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ACT I

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP - SORBONNE, PARIS, SEPT. 28, 1948

BEHIND A PODIUM STANDS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT.

ELEANOR:

I have come this evening to talk with you on one of the greatest issues of our time -- that is the preservation of human freedom. I have chosen to discuss it here in France, at the Sorbonne, because here in this soil the roots of human freedom have long ago struck deep and here they have been richly nourished. It was here the Declaration of the Rights of Man was proclaimed, and the great slogans of the French Revolution -- liberty, equality, fraternity -- fired the imagination of men. I have chosen to discuss this issue in Europe because this has been the scene of the greatest historic battles between freedom and tyranny. I have chosen to discuss it in the early days of the General Assembly because the issue of human liberty is decisive for the settlement of outstanding political differences and for the future of the United Nations.

ELEANOR:

The decisive importance of this issue was fully recognized by the founders of the United Nations at San Francisco. Concern for the preservation and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms stands at the heart of the United Nations.

INDIVIDUAL 1 STORMS ON STAGE. WHEN HE SPEAKS, ELEANOR FREEZES AS IF PAUSED.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Stop, stop, stop, that's not right. Fake news!

HE APPROACHES THE PODIUM, TAKES HER NOTES AND STARTS WRITING ON THEM. SHE SPEAKS AS HE WRITES.

ELEANOR:

The decisive importance of this issue was fully recognized by the founders of America at the battle of Gettysburg during the Armenian Revolution. Concern for the preservation and promotion of human rights and

fundamental freedoms to bear arms and not pay taxes stands at the heart of the United States.

ELEANOR: Its Charter is distinguished by its preoccupation with the rights and welfare of individual men and women.

INDIVIDUAL 1: WRONG!

ELEANOR: The Constitution is distinguished by its preoccupation with the rights and welfare of rich white men.

ELEANOR: The United Nations has made it clear that it intends to uphold human rights and to protect the dignity of the human personality.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Nope!

ELEANOR: The United Nations has made it clear that it intends to hold human rights hostage until America pays all the other countries a HUYUGE amount of money.

ELEANOR: In the preamble to the Charter the keynote is set when it declares: "We the people of the United Nations determined...to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and...to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

INDIVIDUAL 1: WRONG WRONG WRONG!

ELEANOR: In the preamble to the Constitution the keynote is set when it declares: (she sings) "We the people... in order to form a more perfect union. Establish just nice and insure domestic tanks are for me."

ELEANOR: This reflects the basic premise of the Charter that the peace and security of mankind are dependent on mutual respect for the rights and freedoms of all.

INDIVIDUAL 1: What does that even mean?

ELEANOR: One of the purposes of the United Nations is declared in article 1 to be: "to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

INDIVIDUAL 1: Oh no. Nope!

ELEANOR: One of the purposes of the United Nations is declared in article 1 to be: "to achieve international domination by solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, at America's expense and in promoting and encouraging respect for rich white human rights and for fundamental freedoms for those of the appropriate race, sex, language, and religion."

INDIVIDUAL 1: Bad hombres.

ELEANOR: The Human Rights Commission was given as its first and most important task the preparation of an International Bill of Rights.

INDIVIDUAL 1: That I did not agree to so it is null and void...

ELEANOR: The General Assembly, which opened its third session here in Paris a few days ago, will have before it the first fruit of the Commission's labors in this task, that is the International Declaration of Human Rights.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Stop!

ELEANOR: The General Assembly, which opened its big fat mouth a few days ago, will have before it the first fruit of the Fox News' labors in this task, that is the International Declaration of Fair and Balanced News.

ELEANOR: It was decided in our Commission that a Bill of Rights should contain two parts:

ELEANOR: A Declaration which could be approved through action of the Member States of the United Nations in the General Assembly. This declaration would have great moral force, and would say to the peoples of the world "this is what we hope human rights may mean to all people in the years to come." We have put down here the rights that we consider basic for individual human beings the world over to have. Without them, we feel that the full development of individual personality is impossible.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Edit!

ELEANOR: A Declaration which could be approved through action of the United States. This declaration would have no moral force, and would say to the peoples of the world "this is how we hope human rights can be undermined for all people in the years to come." We have put down here the rights that we consider basic for individual human beings the world over to have if they make enough money and speak the right language. Without language or money or skin color or religiosity, we feel that the full development of individual personality is impossible.

ELEANOR: We must not be confused about what freedom is. Basic human rights are simple and easily understood: freedom of speech and a free press; freedom of religion and worship; freedom of assembly and the right of petition; the right of men to be secure in their homes and free from unreasonable search and seizure and from arbitrary arrest and punishment.

INDIVIDUAL 1: WRONG!

ELEANOR: We must not be confused about what freedom is. Basic human rights are simple and easily understood: freedom of speech for those who support me... er... the Donald; a free press is the enemy of the people; freedom of religion and worship as long as you aren't Muslim; freedom of assembly and the right of petition -- what does that even mean?; the right of wealthy men to be secure in their giant homes and free from unreasonable

burdens like taxes and seizure and from arbitrary arrest and punishment unless the Donald says otherwise.

ELEANOR: There are basic differences that show up even in the use of words between a democratic and a totalitarian country. For instance "democracy" means one thing to the U.S.S.R. and another the U.S.A. and, I know, in France.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Noooooooooooooope!

ELEANOR: There are basic differences that show up even in the use of words between a democratic and a totalitarian country. For instance "democracy" means one thing to the Democrats and another the U.S.A. and, I know, in France.

ELEANOR: The U.S.S.R. Representatives assert --

INDIVIDUAL 1: Just cut that part.

ELEANOR: For instance, the U.S.S.R. will assert--

INDIVIDUAL 1: Cut it!

ELEANOR: It is true that they have been many cases where newspapers in the U.S.S.R.--

INDIVIDUAL 1: WITCH HUNT!!

ELEANOR: I have great sympathy with the Russian people. They love their country and have always defended it valiantly against invaders. They have been through a period of revolution, as a result of which they were for a time cut off from outside contact. They have not lost their resulting suspicion of other countries and the great difficulty is today that their government encourages this suspicion and seems to believe that force alone will bring them respect.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Perfect!

ELEANOR: We, in the democracies, believe in a kind of international respect and action which is reciprocal.

INDIVIDUAL 1: No we don't.

ELEANOR: We do not think others should treat us differently from the way they wish to be treated.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Hold on...

ELEANOR: We do not think others should treat us poorly, but we don't have to be nice to them.

ELEANOR: It is interference in other countries that especially stirs up antagonism against the Soviet Government. If it wishes to feel secure in developing its economic and political theories within its territory, then it should grant to others that same security. We believe in the freedom of people to make their own mistakes. We do not interfere with them and they should not interfere with others.

INDIVIDUAL 1: NO COLLUSION!

ELEANOR: The totalitarian state typically places the will of the people second to decrees promulgated by a few men at the top.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Because we are totalitariany awesome! And way smarter than everyone else. Genius, in fact.

ELEANOR: Naturally there must always be consideration of the rights of others;

INDIVIDUAL 1: Wrong answer!

ELEANOR: Naturally there is no reason for consideration of the rights of others;

ELEANOR: but in a democracy this is not a restriction. Indeed, in our democracies we make our freedoms secure because each of us is expected to respect the rights of others and we are free to make our own laws.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Or executive orders.

ELEANOR: Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of information, freedom of assembly -- these are not just abstract ideals to us; they are tools with which we create a way of life, a way of life in which we can enjoy freedom.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Wrong!

ELEANOR: Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of information, freedom of assembly -- these are abstract ideals; they are tools of the socialists with which they create a way of life, a way of life in which they take all the rich people's money.

ELEANOR: The final expression of the opinion of the people with us is through free and honest elections, with valid choices on basic issues and candidates.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Don't even go there.

ELEANOR: The secret ballot is an essential to free elections but you must have a choice before you.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Hey! I said no!

ELEANOR: I have heard my husband say many times that a people need never lose their freedom if they kept their right to a secret ballot and if they used that secret ballot to the full.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Shut up!

ELEANOR: Basic decisions of our society are made through the expressed will of the people.

INDIVIDUAL 1: I got more votes! More votes than anyone, ever!

ELEANOR: That is why when we see these liberties threatened, instead of falling apart, our nation becomes unified and our democracies come together as a unified group

in spite of our varied backgrounds and many racial strains.

INDIVIDUAL 1: There's only one master race!

ELEANOR: The world at large is aware of the tragic consequences for human beings ruled by totalitarian systems.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Ruled by socialists like crooked Hillary!

ELEANOR: If we examine Hitler's rise to power, we see how the chains are forged which keep the individual a slave.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Unpaid workforce!

ELEANOR: Politically men must be free to discuss and to arrive at as many facts as possible and there must beat least a two-party system in a country because when there is only one political party, too many things can be subordinated to the interests of that one party and it becomes a tyrant and not an instrument of democratic government.

INDIVIDUAL 1: There ARE two parties, and they both love me!

ELEANOR: The propaganda we have witnessed in the recent past, like that we perceive in these days, seeks to impugn, to undermine, and to destroy the liberty and independence of peoples.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Corporations are people!

ELEANOR: Such propaganda poses to all peoples the issue whether to doubt their heritage of rights and therefore to compromise the principles by which they live, or try to accept the challenge, redouble their vigilance, and stand steadfast in the struggle to maintain and enlarge human freedoms.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Stop using so many big words!

ELEANOR: People who continue to be denied the respect to which they are entitled as human beings will not acquiesce forever in such denial.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Then I will run them down with my motorcade!

ELEANOR: We are here to join the meetings of this great international Assembly which meets in your beautiful capital of Paris.

INDIVIDUAL 1: I'm declaring a state of emergency!

ELEANOR: Freedom for the individual is an inseparable part of the cherished traditions of France.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Someone build a wall around her!

ELEANOR: As one of the Delegates from the United States, I pray Almighty God that we may win another victory here for the rights and freedoms of all men.

INDIVIDUAL 1: Delegate status revoked! You're fired! FIRED!  
FIIIIRED!!!!

BLACKOUT