



**68th ANNUAL ADDRESS OF
HONORABLE FRANK RUSSELL
M.:W.: GRAND MASTER**

Welcome to all Master Masons of the Washington Jurisdiction, the officers of this Jurisdiction, and visitors who have journeyed to partake with us in our 68th Grand Communication. I trust that our endeavors here will build upon that foundation that has been laid by our forerunners for their 67 years of continued work, harmony, deliberation, and interest with the goal in mind of the unity and brotherhood of this fraternity and for service to mankind.

I am sure that each of you wish to join with me in expressing to our host lodge and Chapter our most heartfelt thanks for the effort in the preparation to afford us the comfort, the convenience, and the warm hospitality we have enjoyed thus far. May I express to the host lodge, on behalf of the brethren our appreciation for your work that has been done within the entertainment committee for this Grand Lodge. I am sure that without the dedication, support, and interest, we would not be enjoying the harmonious atmosphere that is about us at this time.

Your attention is briefly called at this moment of the time span that you and I have attempted in some way to make a meaningful contribution to free masonry. Time is not important, what is important, I believe, is our commitment to improve Prince Hall Masonry, the commitment within our mind will be of significant importance. At this point, in this communication, each one of us should not only make that type of commitment, we have to make an introspection of ourselves to redefine where we are coming from as individuals and more clearly where we are going collectively as black masons so as to be farther ahead at the end of this communication. I am committing myself, and I am asking you to look very deeply at yourself as we review our efforts and actions for the last 12 months for Prince Hall Masonry must be evaluated.

The history of this Jurisdiction indicates to me that the brethren of Jurisdiction, the officers of this Jurisdiction and more particularly for the last 68 years they have in fact made a contribution to this Jurisdiction. Yet, no mason should ever consider himself if indispensable in the pursuit of the accomplishments and the development of the fraternity for which their existence is of a common goal. I wish to express my sincere appreciation and dedication for the service by each and every one of the elected officers of the Jurisdiction:

R.W. Deputy Grand Master, James E. Chase; R.W. Senior Grand Warden, James W. Davis; R.W. Junior Grand Warden, Jimmy Simmons; R.W. Grand Lecturer, Carlton B. Tucker; Grand Senior Deacon, Thomas P. Waggener; Grand Junior Deacon, Ernest Coleman; Grand Senior Steward Reginald Bright; Grand Junior Steward, Dave Wilson; Grand Chaplain, Rev. C. F. Williams; Grand Tyler, James T. Smith; Grand Organist, E.A. Douglas; Grand Bible Bearer, Eugene R. Russell; Grand Marshall, Ollie Moore; Grand Orator, Percy Powell; Grand Attorney, Jack Tanner; Grand Historians, Willie Joe Davis and Herbert B. Baldwin; Grand Standard Bearer, Sanford Barnes; Grand Pursuivant, Howard Lanier; Grand Trustees, Isiah Simon, Glenwood Buxton, William M. Charles, Sr., Loyle C. Brooks, and Prank Hooks.

I am confident that many may not understand the necessity of one to identify a worthy brother. Even at the risk of many of my brethren not truly appreciating my thoughts at this time, we must admit that the support and the steadfast counsel and help over the past three consecutive years by Past Grand Master Louis P. Solomon has truly been a beacon to guide me and protector of this office. I would easily add that all of the Past Grand Masters have certainly made contribution equal to this office.

It seems fitting to me to note that these Past Grand Masters which no longer have or are needing the pursuit of the flowers of the luxury of the Grand Masters office or promotion to an office, but they have continually contributed their service and their contribution for the good of the brethren of this jurisdiction and more particularly for this Grand Lodge.

It is true as time moves on that the priorities of a Grand Lodge determine and dictate that there must be opportunity for our brethren to take the leadership of their Grand Lodge and to make their contribution to build upon and add to as other brethren before have done. It is with this in mind that this Grand Lodge has successfully been able to, withstanding any type of withering by an administration or individual because we are all builders.

As we approach our crossroads at this our Annual Session at this time, it gives me great pleasure to indicate to you the decision about the future part of the contributions of this Grand Lodge which will be done with determination and consideration for the good of this Grand Lodge. I have attempted to perform this duty with the brethren in mind and that the good of this Jurisdiction was in the forefront of what decision in all of my concerns -

NECROLOGY

Almighty and gracious God, grant us the understanding of this life and that which is truly to come, death. Be gracious unto us in this and be understanding of our transgressions in death. Assist us in this life to develop contributions and to share those bounties, of a temporary life. Give unto the brethren and to mankind the understanding of self—respect, and grant all of the brethren here with named peace and harmony in the celestial lodge not made with human hands...Inland Empire Lodge #3 — Workcuff and Aaron Cave, Jr.; Harmony Lodge #2 — Eugene Whiteside; Guiding Star #6 — Joseph Wimbush;

Torii Lodge #46 — Alton Merwitz; Misawa Air Base Japan #54 — Lee Burrell, Jones K. Hamilton and Dilton J. Jolley; Cassia Lodge #5 — Turman Davis, Jr., James H. Lasley, John F. Bryant, and Edgar H. Pryor; Marianas Travelers #49 — Henry W. Baurber; Eureka #41 — Bernard W. Cross; Hercules #17 — Gilbert A. Austin, Jerome Pagan, and Booker T. Washington; Evergreen #9 — Erskine A. Solomon, Sr.

STATE OF THE CRAFT

Rhetoric at this point has very little substance. It is in this light that we will deal with the condition of this Grand Jurisdiction. The total assets of this Grand Jurisdiction are \$1,077,348.32; the membership of this Grand Jurisdiction is budgeted out to 1200 members; the number of lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction is 27; the number of U.D. Lodges is 2; we have a respectable home in the City of Tacoma having a worth of \$85,000.00. We have a structure that is highly acceptable in the City of Seattle, with worth of \$50,000.00. We have, also, made a commitment for a total sum of \$20,000.00 in cash to the brethren in Spokane, Washington where upon it will be possible to bring about the lodge in 1972 or before the end of 1971, in the estimate of \$40,000.00.

We have also made it possible for the brethren of Okinawa to have a home in a foreign land. The Building Department represented by Past Grand Master, Louis P. Solomon, with a cadre of brethren performed an acceptable job in an outstanding manner.

The physical condition as well as the moral is beyond reproach as this Grand Jurisdiction's work and concern for the brethren.

Your District Deputies have performed in a highly acceptable manner, also. Those Grand Lodge officers holding the position of District Deputies are: Bennett Wilborn #1, Jasper P. Warren #2, McKinley Yates #3, William T. Gaskins #4, A. E. Pendray #5, Roland R. Rainey #6, Willie W. Martin #8. Special District Deputies are: William Lanier #1, Leonard Baldwin and Lloyd E. Davis #2, and John Peterson #6. These brethren have performed in an acceptable manner to further augment the clear posture of the healthy conditions of this Jurisdiction.

Our Grand Junior Warden Brother Jimmy Simmons working within the youth program has shown the Prince Hall awareness from zero percent to an acceptable degree of black awareness. Too long we have failed to deal with youth conditions, yet, in the last three consecutive years, we note with great pleasure, that the youth concern in this Jurisdiction has given more than \$3,000.00 in scholarships for the Grand Lodge. The reports and services that have been extended and shown by this Grand Lodge's visitations to the Far East Command which was carried out so ably by the Past Grand Master Solomon and his cadre (Grand Lecturer Carlton B. Tucker, District Deputy Rainey, and Brother Sylvester Lake) exemplifies to the brethren in the Philippines, Okinawa, Guam, and the heart of Japan our concern for them also.

The report and the condition found, plus the information that was revealed and shared with the brethren during the District meeting,

gives further indication that this Grand Jurisdiction of the State of the Craft is in excellent condition.

FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIP

It has been said that the State of Washington is one of the strongest, cohesive groups of master masons in the United States. Too often, it is proven that we work only for a period of time when we serve as master masons; yet, the light and records of the C.C. of F.C., Brother E.A. Douglas who has served and tested this set, will set forth the charge of the fraternal rapport in which this Grand Lodge is held in high esteem in all areas of the Globe. I speak not without authority as many of you know that this Jurisdiction was honored by the election of your Grand Master Frank Russell to preside over the Conference of Grand Masters of the United States. Certainly, this is indicative of your organization where all the Grand Masters had to take part in order that this might be possible. Suffice it to say, the brethren of the State of Washington are collectively and individually joining with me in making sure that this is a continual goal.

CONCLUSION

I wish to take this opportunity to express to all of the brethren of the Far Last Command at this Grand Lodge our appreciation and sincere concern and I wish to express the hope and desire that you will feel at home at this communication as many of the brethren of the Far East Command the concerns of those citizens all across the country that the State of Washington is participating in meaningful endeavors with all the brethren across this nation; that this grand lodge supports and will support those training programs such as those that are recommended in the Grand Master's address pertaining to the Honorable Leon Sullivan in the OIC, Inc., Operations Industry Centers.

Now my brethren, I urge you to consider the challenge ahead for this Jurisdiction. We are not individually little Caesars. We are a unit. Urge you to take a look and ask yourself, from your present officers or wherever you may be, what will be your contribution, what will be your goal to a meaningful progress to the M.W.P.H.G.L. of the State of Washington and its Jurisdiction, for many of us, we will continue to assist, counsel, and participate, but many of you must become the leaders, you must make your contributions in a highly identifiable manner. I urge you to make this contribution. I urge you to be concerned with the direction of this Grand Lodge. I urge you to step forward and work for the good of the order together with your brother masons.

I wish to personally thank all of the brethren of the M.W.P.H.G.L. for your last three consecutive years of support. It truly has been an experience. It has been a great help and stimulus not only masonically, ritualistically, personally, spiritually, but also economically, socially, and politically. I wonder many times where would I be had I not been a mason these past three years. I owe a significant amount of wherever I am to masonry and that is you.

It is you and many of the brethren who have passed and gone on to that celestial lodge not made by hand.

I want to express to you my thanks for all the kind things that you may have said at one time or another. I want to express my thanks to those who may have become frustrated and discouraged because I did not do what you may have thought I should have done.

I want to thank those who have supported me when I was doing the things that were not in compliance to your ideas. Personally, I feel that I have been tremendously fortunate in the things you have given me, in your support, and the identifiable correction that you have made over these three years which have caused me to grow.

As Grand Master, it has truly been wonderful. This communication will be the last communication that I will be speaking to you as the Grand Master of this Grand Lodge. As it has been said many times before, I will become one of the Past Grand Masters. This Grand Lodge will continue on and on, and I am confident that it will continue because I see many good leaders who will make contributions as I hope I have and those that I know have made before me.

On behalf of my wife and family, as many of you know, we appreciate the many things you have done. I have grown and I can now truly say very sincerely, my brethren, how wonderful it is for brethren to dwell in unity. May we forever dwell in unity for this is my commitment to you that I will be forever a part of that unity. I will continue to offer myself in whatever capacity that I may be able to assist, learn, act, and speak in the capacity of a Past Grand Master.

Thank you.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the legal acceptable age be 18 years old.
2. That a Charter be issued to the U.D. Lodges--Mabuhay in the Philippines and Craftsman Lodge in Wakkania in Japan.
3. That a joint committee be established for the following purpose:
 - a. Restructure and organizing departments within Grand Lodge.
 - b. Revise and update the code.
 - c. The committee be required to report to the Grand Lodge on its findings for adoption or rejection at the annual session in 1972.
 - d. The sum of \$1,000.00 be allowed for the committee to carry out its work.
4. That the term "clandestine" be changed to "non-Prince Hall" in all places.
5. That the contribution of the Conference of Grand Masters and to the National Legal Defense Fund be continued in a like manner.
6. That this Grand Lodge recommend and adopt the concept of the OIC, headed by Dr. Leon Sullivan.

Fraternally yours,

Frank Russell
Grand Master