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January 12, 1969

Dear Sir:

Here are a few thoughts which I ask you to read before finishing the final draft of your Inauguration Speech.


I have sought to make them brief and quotable and you are welcome, as always, to any thoughts I have.

I concentrated mainly on Peace. I feel that is what the people yearn for most, and I would assume you would certainly express yourself on the subject in your speech. Perhaps I have hit something that might trigger you into further thoughts of your own.

I hope to see you next week at the Inauguration, which will be proudest moment of my life, as well as a monumental occasion for the nation and the world.

God bless you Sir.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon  
Pierre Hotel - 39th Floor  
5th Avenue and 61st Street  
New York City, New York 10021

Probing for Inauguration Speech Thoughts  
on Peace

With my hand still on the bible, I pledge you a Passion for Peace.  
If there is but a single word that is heard here today -  
let it be Peace.

If there is but one word - carried around the world by satellite  
today - let it be Peace.

Peace on the battlefield and in man's heart.

Peace at the conference table and in international waters.

Peace in distant colonial jungles and in nearer General  
Assemblies.

Let the translation of what is said here today be this:

Today is a beginning.

And in the beginning is the word.

And the word is Peace.

We must let what began as a testing ground for democracy  
become a proving ground for peace,

Where peace is unknown - let us make it welcome.

Where peace is fragile - let us make it strong.

Where peace is temporary - let us make it permanent.

And, yet, we must remember:

The absence of war does not guarantee the presence of peace.

Peace begins not at the conference table but in the hearts of those who sit at the conference table.

Peace begins not in the releasing of prisoners but in the hearts of the captors.

Peace begins not in victory or defeat but in what governments do with victory and defeat.

Let the world take notice - it is our intention to stockpile Peace.

We seek strength only to <sup>defend</sup> match aggression.

We improve armaments only to discourage the use of armaments.

We are unwilling warriors who rise only to the defense of our freedom - (and all freedom is our freedom.)

A new day is dawning in America.

We meet on the brink of tomorrow.

History opens a fresh page today.

The hopes of mankind are at bat again.

We step into the last third of a century already scarred by war and famine, hunger and poverty, tension and despair.

We must live every day as if it were our last day and our country's first day.

We must pass on to our children more than a lighted fuse.

We must resolve the differences of the past and secure the promises of the future.

We must convince the world we care.

We must learn to live together - if not always in harmony -  
never in war.

Only days ago - three of our bravest men looked down  
on us and saw an earth the size of a quarter.  
Surely we who inhabit an earth growing smaller every day  
can reduce the problems within it.

And so - to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness - let us  
now add the Passion for Peace.

Probing for Inauguration Speech Thoughts

Addenda

Unity begins at home.

Democracy is a glass house.

And the shatter of a broken window can be heard around the world.

The right to demonstrate is not the right to destroy.

The right to dissent is not the right to burn.

The right to protest the law is not the right to break the law.

To all of the truths we hold to be self-evident - let us add that all men who are created equal shall receive equal rights, equal opportunity and equal respect in our hearts as well as our laws.

Probing for Inauguration Speech Thoughts

Closing

I pledge to you the long dark night for America will end.  
That together we will walk into the future  
to face our tomorrows with dignity and courage.  
And I ask God to guide me  
to give me extra strength  
greater wisdom  
for what must be done can only be done with God's help.