



J. BLANTON BELK, JR., Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Director of Moral Re-Armament in the United States.

Opening address  
World Sing-Out Festival  
July 2, 1967

**F**irst, a word of thanks to the City of New Rochelle, her Mayor and City Council who made possible this magnificent facility.

And secondly, a word of great gratitude to the industries who have made unprecedented gifts to equip this operation.\* (See page 13.)

I believe this unparalleled assistance has come because we are attempting to do something big enough for the greatest industries in America to participate in. Fort Slocum is not a terminal point, it is the beginning of something new in the world. Washington, industry, the press, the UN and hundreds of families will be coming this summer to Fort Slocum to see if we have a working demonstration of the next step for the world.

It is fitting, too, to salute the men and women of the three national "Up With People" casts and those who have joined to put their backs into preparing and equipping Fort Slocum. I need not tell you what a miracle it has been.

A word of special welcome to you from other nations who have come so far to the World Sing-Out Festival.

In the past months the world has held its breath, watching to see whether the fighting in the Middle East would avalanche into a disastrous world war. China exploded the hydrogen bomb and the nations speculated what it might mean to have this vast and turbulent nation equipped with the means to launch nuclear destruction. Here in the United States city after city has been the scene of racial violence, with the mounting threat of a country at war within herself.

But we are not here on Fort Slocum to tell people more about the crisis in the world, but to proclaim a new creativity that could yet sweep the earth with its hope and promise. This is our theme—*not crisis but creativity*. I don't want to get lost in the crisis of the hour which everybody has accepted as normal, but to get the whole world excited and involved in the creation of something brand new.

Last week four satellites beamed the first live international television program into homes right

around the globe. This is the Age of the World, and we are engaged in building a world community. Today on Fort Slocum we are gathering from right around the globe to launch the World Sing-Out Festival. Fort Slocum embodies a new spirit mobilizing in the world. That the time has come where this is possible is far more historic than anything screaming from sensational headlines.

The world is running scared with this new giant arising on the world scene called youth. Some would coddle it, others would control it. Many will fear it and condemn it. Some will try to use it, and many will try to make money out of it.

But in fact, this generation has the brain power, the muscle power and the heart power to remake the world.

**A**nd during these last months, you—with your two national casts in Germany, 48 Sing-Outs in Europe from Bergen, Norway, to Bologna, Italy; “Harambee Africa” and “Springbok Stampede” and nine Sing-Outs throughout Africa; two in the Philippines; Hong Kong; Okinawa; one full-time cast in Japan and numerous local casts; Korea; eleven casts in Panama; three in Venezuela; a national cast in Brazil and seven local ones; five in Puerto Rico; ten in Canada; and 148 local and three national casts in the U.S.—255 casts around the world—have claimed the future for yourselves. And you’re running with it. Freedom is a force on the move!

You are determined to be the authentic voice, to be the leadership for your generation right around the world.

The Panama National TV editorialized: “They are youth, ready and free in spirit, who represent a new day for humanity . . . They are awakening listeners, generating massive enthusiasm and, above all, leaving with all who listen a positive unease as they are confronted with a new way of life, higher, firmer, more lasting.”

The *Panama Tribune* wrote: “Undoubtedly, they represent the new diplomacy of the heart that is so

often lacking. It is the secret of successful international relations in the crucial and formative years ahead.”

Beyond the theories, dogmas and claims of the Right, the Far Right, the New Left, the Old Left, it is increasingly evident that Moral Re-Armament is the truly revolutionary force in the world. Moral Re-Armament is not left or right, but up—it is up with people, all people. It is where the action is. It is the wave of the future.

It is where people really change. It is where the man of the future emerges. It is the demonstration of how to do what everyone is talking about. It is the new education with the world as the campus.

A new type of man is emerging all around the world. He is at home in Nairobi, Panama City, Jakarta, Nashville. His home is where he is invited, his family the people he meets around the globe, his job the next stage in world history.

His spirit is enthusiastic participation. His perspective is, “Anything’s possible.” His training is to be able to distinguish right and wrong; his permanent decision is to pick himself up when he falls; his secret—faith.

He is endowed in various degrees with brains or brawn or beauty. But he is willing to go beyond them, to step out into space, trust the Creator’s laws that order his universe, and discover something brand new.

He has found in his own personal experience that if he takes on the biggest task he sees, he stretches into a new man beyond what anyone saw in him before.

His enemy is not the other race or class or generation, but the inner tyrannies that rob men of their dignity, potential, divine spark. He has learned that absolute moral standards, far from restricting his freedom, actually liberate him from the primitive passions of hate, fear, greed and lust.

He demonstrates every day that normal living is risking everything he is, or has, or wants, for the highest he knows.

And every day his highest gets raised.

The modern world is forcing men and women to reevaluate how to live and what to live for. The technological explosion, the knowledge explosion, the sheer pace of life are forcing men to decide anew what to do with their time, their talent and their trade.

**T**he problem in America is not to get people moving. The problem is to find the right way to go. Everywhere there is a ferment to find out what life is all about. On college campuses the chapels are empty but the religion classes are packed.

One school of thought comes from the “behavioral engineers” who have learned to condition small children on up to respond to designed incentives, as in Pavlov’s experiments with dogs.

Another school of thought is that in the future drugs will be able to regulate all the personality defects—hate, anger, envy—which trip up the progress of mankind and make wars.

A third answer to running an increasingly complex society is the “efficiency” mentality of bigger and better computers and cost analysis.

Moral Re-Armament’s answer is to equip every man and woman and child with a purpose big enough to demand a new quality of living from them. Suddenly, families begin to work, international relations begin to work, every field of man’s endeavor begins to be relevant to the needs of the world.

In America this age of the computer must be matched with the age of conscience, or we will become a dehumanized society.

You in Sing-Out have found the secret of creating leadership. You seem to thrive on challenge.

A young European in one of the casts wrote to me last week: “As a foreigner in this country, I want to thank you so much for the past two years here. It has been the greatest experience for me, but I feel that I stand at a turning point in my life. For the past week all that was on my mind was whether I should go home or stay. It was a hard decision,

because I wanted to see my family, and I knew if I decided to stay a lot would be expected of me, being responsible and taking leadership. I really felt, if I decided to stay, it would mean for me to go all out with God all the time and never sit back and relax, never to expect others to do the job, but be willing to give all I have always. Yesterday morning my decision was to stay another year, because I believe the next year will be a turning point in history and I am ready to go wherever God wants me.”

During the past six months some thirty of the young men of “Up With People” have been called into the Armed Forces. Senior officers tell me that without exception they are serving with distinction wherever they have gone—into the Infantry, Marines, Airborne, Helicopters, Rangers, officers’ training. They are making an outstanding contribution to the spirit of their units, for which a number of them have received achievement awards.

Another young man wrote me: “I worked for a year with ‘Up With People.’ One thing I learned, fortunately, was a great deal toward a relationship with God. My brother was killed on Friday. He was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. He understood more than anyone else in my family what I was doing for the past year and why. I find it very difficult to bear facts, but I find that if I just take into perspective what God’s plans are for us, that I can. My friends here tell me that I seem more ‘grown up’ than they and so do my family. It seems that I must be the member of the family not to ‘fall apart’ at this time. My brother was a serious person. He was committed to active defense of freedom in a similar (but different) manner as ‘Up With People’—MRA . . . I wanted to thank you and your wife for your dedication to ideas that got ‘Up With People’ started so that I was enabled to be near to my God and therefore to be able to continue through this time.”

You have been pioneering a new dimension in education. Instead of preparing for life, you are participating while you learn.

The Supervising Principal of Sing-Out High School sent the following report on the three travel-

ing high schools. "The overall grade average of all three casts ran B to B—.

"Just one of the casts traveled 22,710 miles during school year (September-June), performed for an estimated 165,000 people in three countries and 30 states while they studied. To complete a full academic year, while participating in this dynamic program is phenomenal."

The answer to the war on hunger, the war on poverty, might begin with a war on boredom and a war on frustration. A member of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency who is working with a poverty program in a western city, wrote to me, "Come back every two weeks or at least monthly. The songs you sing give vision and vitality. They overcome the psychological and spiritual poverty by giving people the motivation to be better citizens. The racial hate that stirs in our inner city can only be combated by the unselfishness and vision which your program personifies."

The chairman of one of the big newspaper chains in America wrote to me the other day saying, "The programs of 'Up With People' are rapidly becoming the life and hope of America."

People ask, "What is Sing-Out?" You may think you know. But I'll bet by the end of this festival you won't recognize it. Sing-Out evolves out of every day you live, every decision you make, every step you take.

Sing-Out is a very sophisticated weapon. It is not a patriotic musical show. It is not a play with a product that is called "the answer" at the end. It is an experience, a process each person goes through on stage and in the audience, that turns him on and gets him moving in a new direction.

Some talk about expanding your consciousness through LSD. At best, the LSD trips seem to give you an intense awareness of all your senses. It turns you inward. You can expand inward so far, until you approach insanity. That is a very sophisticated weapon of evil.

God's alternative is to expand outward and lift humanity with this great explosive force.



The forces of evil have become very aggressive in the world. Good has been neutralized—made meek and mild. We must become the most aggressive force on earth.

**H**istory is pushing us to be in time. We must not be satisfied with having played a part in this mighty creation that everybody acclaims, and still not be in time. God, I believe, gave this idea to be in time. What have we got to do?

This coming year we must produce a mighty film that can make this element we have here live and energize the billions of the world. Think what could happen if this idea got loose to the billions.

We must start a people's fund to send the youth themselves with this idea to the capitals and hinterlands of the world.

People tell me that it is miraculous that Moral Re-Armament can accomplish what it does on so little money. We have to; just as we had to accept gratefully these empty buildings and move with faith and energy to get them furnished, equipped and operating, without the funds to do it. Our need and opportunity were the means of enlisting the help of many.

I have been struck by the eagerness of other peoples and governments to foot the bill of the "Up With People" casts in their countries. The Government of West Germany, for example, last year covered the air transportation to and from their country and every expense within their borders. The Government of Panama, out of their very slender resources, underwrote the costs of the cast's stay there.

We have urgent invitations from nations in Asia, Latin America and Africa, as well as Europe. Responsible men and women in these countries feel that "Up With People" could do something priceless for them at this moment in history.

The United States has undertaken an arduous, urgent and essential mission to advance freedom around the world. We are kicked and abused by

some who are ungrateful, jealous or antagonistic. And of course we have made our share of mistakes. But I believe most Americans are convinced that we cannot retreat from what we have begun, and millions around the world count on us to continue.

One may not agree with the way Washington is doing this job, but those who carry the burden of leadership face decisions, the consequences of which have never been faced by any human before in history. And they do it in the face of unparalleled opposition by some who enjoy the freedom to criticize but assume none of the burden of responsibility for the course of events they criticize.

If we will heed now what countries like Indonesia, Venezuela, Kenya, Spain, the Philippines and Panama say they most want from us, we may indeed build the world for which mankind longs. And we will see from this festival that gigantic mobilization of a generation, pictured by General Eisenhower, with the "loyalty, patriotism, understanding and enthusiasm" to bring "new and needed inspiration to our country and to the world."

**T**he aim of this conference is to link up a generation worldwide. That means we will not rest until the young Russians, the young Chinese and the young peoples of the Iron Curtain countries are also participating in freedom on the move and the moral re-armament of the earth. They are thinking about it.

Vladimir Pozner in *Sputnik*, a monthly digest of current Soviet thinking, wrote that the historic task of the third generation since the Revolution was the creation of "a New Man. No doubt, this last task is by far the most complex, a nonstop penetration into the unknown; history has taught no lessons on how you go about changing the egotistic nature of man. His features are not too obvious, like tender sprouts in the undergrowth—but they are there for those who have good eyesight and want to see. They are in the young generation of today; and this basic change in the nature of man, something that no

society has ever been able to achieve, is certainly the greatest asset of the October Revolution, now only half a century old."

Everyone agrees that change is the mark of our age. Everyone knows that experimentation is the order of the day. Everyone is clear that man himself is the obstacle to peace and progress. What should be more natural, then, than a massive change in human nature to fit man for these times of high purpose? Moral Re-Armament's Sing-Out "Up With People," the Sing-Out High Schools, Mackinac College, PACE Magazine—these are developing a new type of man and woman—purpose people—whose aim is to swing humanity forward to the age where peace, plenty, justice and freedom are realities for all men.

The youth of the world coming here, demanding Moral Re-Armament and the spirit of "Up With People," marks the end of the problem-protest era and the beginning of the creative action era. There is a promise here that we can offer to the communist and noncommunist, the affluent northern half of the world and the less affluent southern half, a theme of life great enough for everybody to subscribe to. Not tomorrow, but today.

I think too highly of this generation to believe that they will sit idly by and let their children and their children's children grow up to accept the situation we find in the world today as normal. Hatred, violence, frustration and finally anarchy, are certainly not normal.

The communist world said they were going to win the world when the myth of God was removed from the mind of man. Here is a world generation saying that freedom can move in every heart both in the communist and noncommunist world, when the reality of God is restored to the mind of man, answering the dilemma of the east and the frustrations of the west.

There is a lot of talk of peace in the world, but from this day hence we want the world to know we are willing to give our lives to build the peace in the world.

There is a lot of talk of ending wars. We are willing to give our lives to cure the causes of war in the world.

There is a lot of talk about intensity of race war and anarchy, but we have already demonstrated that the races can run together in the building of a just society with this idea.

**M**oral Re-Armament is a life commitment to see that a new power permeates and controls the whole of humanity. A power that can dissolve hatred and build trust, that can melt the hardest elements and reconcile races and nations, that can cure the causes of war. A power that can strike the spark and bring conscience alive in nations and make it the most relevant factor in the life of the land.

Here is a world generation saying that we will not let the demands of this age, nor the enormous problems of this age, make us shrink into the womb of apathy or protest, but fire us, challenge us and drive us to give a higher purpose of life to humanity.

Among the companies helping to equip and make possible the World Sing-Out Festival at Fort Slocum were the following, up to the time of printing:

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