

SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR HEINRICH KRONSTEIN AT THE OCCASION
OF HIS DECORATION, IN THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON 4/30/59

Can there be more to be grateful for than to be honored in the warm atmosphere of Mrs. Grewe's house in the middle of Washington's spring sunshine and flowers? And yet, I feel I have to justify to you and to myself why I accept this honor although I do not see any particular merit in my life for which such an honor should be granted.

This honor was given to me by President Heuss, a great leader and teacher, through the channels of Ambassador Grewe, an old friend of mine, in order to support two groups and two ideals which I cherish.

As long as I can read, Professor Heuss' message came to me because my mother was one of the few permanent readers of his weekly "Die Hilfe". On one of my first trips to Germany, Professor Heuss invited me and had a long conversation with me on the supplementing character of American and German culture, literature and education. When I left him, I knew I had seen the personification of German, European and Christian culture.

Since 1945 somehow I had a little bit to do with many cultural, political and economic issues between the two countries, in connection with which I saw Ambassador Grewe to have his advice and friendly consultation.

I accept this honor because it symbolizes the idea of exchange between the two cultures and the work of my two universities: Georgetown University under the leadership of the late Father Walsh, of Father Bunn and Father Lucey, and the Frankfurt University under the leadership of Walter Hallstein, Franz Boehm and Helmut Coing. This exchange is not satisfied to exchange persons, but it has the purpose to exchange ideas and to mould new ideas in the general Christian orbit.

I accept this honor to symbolize an anonymous group of people who had to leave Germany after 1933 for political, racial or religious reasons, who

became enthusiastic citizens of the United States and after 1945 proved to be ambassadors of peace, charity and justice. I do not disclose a secret when I mention such names as Erich Warburg, Edmund Stinnes and Gero von Gaevernitz, and when I say that our speaker in the House of Representatives was no one else but Congressman Herter, who helped us to assure an open road for charity.

We called on you, Judge Arnold, to help us in the defense of Staatssekretaer Weizaecker. As a real champion of justice, you have done so in a wonderful way.

I promise to you that I will try to work in the service of these ideals until the last day of my life.

Minister Krapf, I ask you to accept my warmest thanks and to transmit my deep appreciation to President Heuss.