

R I NEWS • NACHRICHTEN • NYHETER NOTIZIE • UUTISIA • NOUVELLES NOTICIAS • ニュース • 消息 • 뉴스

from Philip H. Lindsey, General Secretary of Rotary International, 1600 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201 U.S.A.

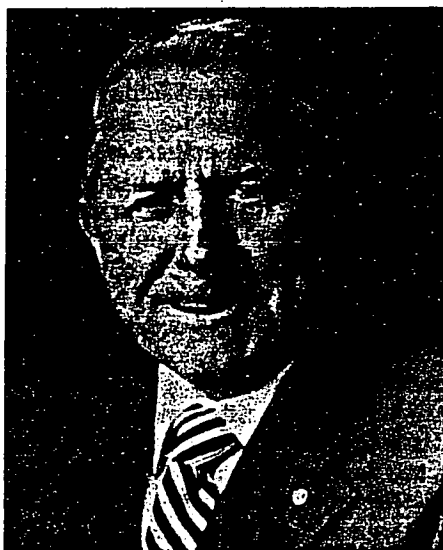
President Keller Tells Rotarians: The Search For Peace Is Our First Priority; Emphasizes The Importance Of Unity

This is a most exciting time to be a Rotarian—with marvelous traditions of growth, service, and accomplishments. President Charles C. Keller, member of the Rotary Club of California, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., echoes this sentiment in his message to clubs.

He also draws attention to a very simple truth: "If we do not find the path to peace, whatever else we do will not make much difference . . . *the search for peace is our first priority.*" This statement clearly underscores the 1987-88 R.I. theme "Rotarians—United In Service—Dedicated To Peace."

The President analyzes other major challenges to be faced this year:

- **PolioPlus:** this looms large; the bulk of fund-raising (to achieve the US\$120 million goal) at the club level should be completed this year.
- **Women in Rotary:** patience, tolerance, and understanding must be our response to historic change.
- **Information Flows:** special efforts are needed to improve communication techniques both inside and outside Rotary.
- **Membership Growth:** both internal



and external extension are always in season; the President calls this "building muscle."

- **Avenues of Service:** club programs should be balanced to cover all four Avenues.
- **Working with Youth:** invest in the future of young people—provide them with values and tools to make them strong and creative.

President Keller notes that the larger Rotary grows and the more complex the world becomes, the more necessary it is to keep our perspectives clear and our priorities in order. He asks clubs to focus on three central points:

- That service to others is the essence of Rotary.
- That because of this fundamental concept, our unity is greater than the diversity which surrounds us.
- That we must measure our International Service and all Foundation programs by how well and how directly they contribute to world peace and understanding.

And so your club is challenged to demonstrate that it is committed to all these issues by meeting five of eight allied objectives listed in the 1987-88 Presidential Citation Program folder (No. 9001-EN) that you received from your district governor. Plan to increase membership, sponsor a new club, start a new service project, increase your Foundation contributions, or meet your PolioPlus fund-raising share. Resolve to earn a Citation this year!

Women in Rotary: historic membership change for clubs in U.S.A.

The U.S. Supreme Court's 7-0 decision supporting California law holds that Rotary clubs in the U.S.A. may no longer exclude women from membership. The R.I. Constitution provides for operating within the laws of all countries and administrative areas where there are Rotary clubs, so Rotary clubs are expected to abide by this decision.

Although its immediate effect is only in California, the decision has practical

application to all clubs in other U.S.A. states with similar public accommodation laws. It remains unclear what the effect will be in other states and, for now, the R.I. Board will not act to discipline or terminate any club in the U.S.A. that accepts women members. Indeed, some clubs are already admitting women as members. *It is important to note that the U.S. Supreme Court decision does not affect clubs outside the*

United States of America.

In the spirit of the ruling, those qualified women elected to membership should enjoy all the rights and privileges of membership and should be welcomed as Rotary members when visiting other clubs.

A fuller account of the Supreme Court ruling appeared in the June issue of THE ROTARIAN and most regional magazines.

Mr. President: Please pass along this issue to your club secretary and club bulletin editor!