

6-9-1968

Notes: Commencement Address, 1968

O.P. Kretzmann

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DATE 6/5/68 OCCASION B-

THEME _____

words began to ^{run} over the airways with
 the final speed of light - it filled our home
 and many of our churches - it began to
 pierce our consciences with a new
 awareness of our condition - that word was the
word: sick - our society, the man
 who pulled the trigger - our world - our church -
sick. sick. sick. with violence, hate, fear
the lust for power, the abuse of freedom.
sick - just sick unto death - ^{we cannot}
 live as we have lived

4. How began that telling word I seem to
 hear you - the class of 1968 - say to me:
 "For God's sake, tell it like it is" - don't
 dish out the old stuff that everything is really
 O.K. - that we - 1968 - are the herald of
 a new dawn - that we can ^{born} burn out the
 form which is deep in our souls - that we
 can conquer break the ghetto, our poverty,
the wound of Viet Nam - like ^{great little}
 boys and girls we ^{daily dose} transcend our ^{seems} tradition of
 welfare programs, social planning, our
 demonstrations and ^{and} marches - we know
 we are sick too - and the depth and
^{horror} extent of our sickness we saw clearly
 at midnight last Tuesday

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5. And yet as it continues to hear
the word "sin" I became more and more

excited - the word sin was good - and true.

You and I could buy it - but another

even shorter word kept knocking at my

consciousness - a word which I did not know

our single time^{to} all these days - a word

which put my own finger on the trigger

last Tuesday night - a word which made me

a real actor in the drama - that was now

premeditated forgotten word - "sin" - it threw the shadow

of a Coon over the bottom in L.A. -

it made the ^{murder} murder of J.F. Kennedy a

cosmic event - from which you and I

could not stand aside - looking around for

water in an effort^{to} which has been

tried by Pontius Pilate -

6. And so today. I will tell it since it is