

(About pride)

*Draft for AFI Award  
3/31/72*

The deep pride that I feel about my profession because I honestly believe it is the single greatest, self-sustaining democracy in the world. Never, to my knowledge, in my profession, has anybody refused to walk out on a stage because there were members of different nationalities or faiths or colors in the audience. And by the same token, no one has ever been refused admittance into my profession by virtue of their nationality, faith, or color.

Our criteria are quite simple, how well do you do your appointed task and how well you please an audience. Those standards, strangely enough, have been the same in most every nation in the world because the art form as we know our profession, does make a brotherhood of man, and the motion picture profession, in particular, has been able to reach out a hand of friendship and of understanding and of love to the most remote corners of the earth, and it has become a singularly powerful weapon for communication.

In a profession which through the years has sometimes been laughed at and derided and scoffed at and maligned, it is nice to know that our profession has produced men of vision and of strength who have gone on to other fields of endeavor and have been quite successful at it.

Our profession has matured and grown and it has earned every bit of respect that it now cherishes and I believe it is an enormous tribute to our profession to be here this evening and to be honored by the President of the United States.

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