

Dr. Paul G. Stern

Thank you Archbishop McCarrick, and good evening ladies and gentlemen and honored guests.

I'm Paul G. Stern, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Northern Telecom, and it's my pleasure to serve this evening as your Dinner Chairman.

In officially welcoming you tonight to this dinner, I should note that when Rabbi Schneier invited me to serve as tonight's Chairman, he mentioned over a persuasive lunch in his study, that "Oh, by the way, some fundraising may be involved." In the same breath, he reported that he had doubled the capacity of the dining room this year by moving this event from another hotel to a larger one, the one we are in this evening. The Rabbi perhaps was not aware, or ^Yleast he chose to ignore it, I suspect it was the latter, that we are in an economy that is virtually dead in the water, and therefore hardly the most respective environment for applying the logic of exponential growth for fundraising these days.

But as a man of great faith, the Rabbi does not let such small challenges interfere with his vision for the Foundation.

When I mentioned the dismal economic outlook, he reminded me that several centuries ago, St. Augustine wrote and I quote: "There are no rewards in Heaven for empty Churches." To make sure that I got the point, however, he said, "Paul, there are no rewards in Heaven whatsoever for empty seats at our awards dinner this year.

And, oh, by the way, I'm expecting you to deliver a record crowd."

Well, my friends, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to say, with some divine guidance and with the help of my co-Chairmen, we did exactly that. This is indeed a record turnout, thanks to your generous support. It is an outstanding tribute to the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, and to the men of accomplishment that we are honoring here this evening. His Excellency Carlos Salinas de Gortari, President of Mexico, and Edwin L. Artzt, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Procter & Gamble Company.

But, it is not just your financial support that is important, it's your personal endorsement of ^{the} Foundation, that you convey with your presence here this evening at the dinner. I believe that the Foundation's efforts to promote understanding, respect and tolerance among people are worthy of our continuing support, because hard as we may try to make this a more peaceful, democratic and secure world, we still have a long way to go. Let there be no mistake that this still is a dangerous world; a dangerous place where innocent people are suffering the cruelty of racial violence and often suicidal nationalism.

Based on the cold realism of past history and continuing atrocities in places such as Bosnia, some will often doubt whether it is indeed ever possible to rid the world of racist attitudes and politics of prejudice. But Shakespeare reminds us, "Our doubts, our traitors and make us lose good oft might win by fearing to attempt."

This evening, ladies and gentlemen, we are paying tribute to two men of distinction and compassion, who through their vision, energy and courage, have dared to make the world a better place to live.

Since his election in 1988, President Salinas has emerged as the world leader, recognized for his bold initiatives to revitalize and renew the Mexican economy, and indeed to improve the standard of living for all of the citizens in Mexico.

I believe a report that was just issued last week by the OECD which is based in Paris, best conveys the view that the world hails President Salinas as he prepares his country to participate in the rapidly changing global economies. The report comments, and I quote, "One is struck by how much has been done and accomplished in Mexico." It is not just the speed at which economic and social reform are happening in Mexico, but it also is the broad range of activities that's underway. From the re-establishing of the country's diplomatic relationships with the Vatican, to the efforts to extend Mexico's trading relationships as well as its program to privatize government run enterprises.

In all of these areas, of course, one is struck by how much has been accomplished so quickly and effectively, thanks to the leadership and vision of President Salinas, who will be presented the Foundation's World Statesman Award a bit later in the program.

Speaking of visionary leadership, the Foundation is recognizing Edwin Artzt for his tireless efforts and achievements in

improving the quality of the environment in the many countries where Procter & Gamble sells its products. P & G's commitment to the environmental challenge is welcome at a time when the environment has become urgent, and some would say the most urgent priority on the world's agenda.

Also at top priority on the global agenda, of course, is the continuing need to promote freedom of speech, freedom of thought, freedom of worship, and freedom of choice. In this regard, I urge the leadership of the Foundation to take courage from something that Dr. Martin Luther King said many years ago about the possibility of ^{the} American Civil Rights movement succeeding in the face of set-backs and the prospect of social and racial violence. Dr. King commented and I quote: "We've gone too far now to turn back, and in the real sense, we're moving and we cannot afford to stop, because we have a date with destiny." And so it is today, as freedom hour strikes after the fall of communism and the ending of four decades of cold war and conflict and confrontation. We have come too far to miss the historic opportunity to fashion a New World order where freedom and not tyranny is on the march. Our date with destiny is within reach as the global democratic revolution progresses, despite some set-backs and some regional conflicts as the ones we are experiencing today.

It is certainly the first time in my adult life that we've had such a grand opportunity to advance the democratic progress and process world-wide, and I pray to God that we seize the moment.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Dinner Chairman. It is indeed a privilege for me to be in such distinguished company.

Ladies and Gentlemen, is the Mayor, Mayor Dinkins present? As we wait for the Mayor, we will serve the meal. Thank you very much.

We had similar letters from Vice-President of the United States, Dan Quayle, and others.

At this time, I'm delighted to introduce to you Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke, the distinguished Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Angier Duke, as he is known by his many friends and colleagues, has served our country with dedication as the United States Ambassador to El Salvador, to Morocco, and to Spain, and is the State Department Chief of Protocol. Angier Duke is a man of conscience, who is deeply involved in the work of Foundation and I'm delighted to call on him.

Angier.