

Now, I have stayed here in Chicago for nearly three weeks and I have met many kinds of American people, Christians, Jews, had a good evening with a number of Jewish scholars, also atheists -- there are some in Chicago --, Protestants, had also an evening with Roman Catholic scholars; I have seen Second City as you have seen in Time magazine, but I have also listened to the very beautiful reproduction of Haendel's Messiah here in this chapel what has shown me the high standard of musical art in Chicago. And on this evening I have met the other members of this panel and have liked to discuss with all of them. I don't think that in Switzerland I could have an opportunity to discuss with very fundamentalists and very liberals and even Jewish and even Roman Catholic theologians together; that was something very new for me, an experience which I liked to have had.

Now a concluding word. If I were myself an American citizen and Christian and theologian, then I would try to elaborate a theology of freedom, a theology of freedom from, let us say, any inferiority complex over against Good Old Europe from whence you all came or your fathers. You don't need have such an inferiority complex. That's what I have learned these weeks. Freedom also, that's another thing, from a superiority complex, let us say, over against Asia and Africa. That's a complex without reason. Then I may add freedom from fear of Communism, Russia, inevitable nuclear warfare, and generally speaking from all the before mentioned principalities and powers and so on. Freedom for -- I like to say a single word^j --, freedom for humanity. Being an American theologian I would then look at the Liberty Statue in the New York Harbor. I have not yet seen that lady, but its pictures. Next week I shall see her in person. That lady certainly needs a little or perhaps a good bit of demythologization. Nevertheless, maybe she may also be seen and interpreted and understood, well, as a symbol of ^{the} a true theology not of liberty but of freedom. Well, it would be necessary

18A 7465

that theology of freedom, of that freedom to which the Son frees us and which as his gift is the one, real, human freedom.

My last question for this evening will, such as specific American theology, one day arise. I hope so.