**NOVEMBER 22, 1936**

Dear fellow countrymen and countrywomen, I greet you with the words: Praised be Jesus Christ!

Today's talk is directed primarily to our young people, who have no good word for other nationalities in America, particularly however for the Scandinavian race, but are slow to find anything negative about what they inherited from their own forefathers. The twentieth century tries to subvert God's order. It also tries to oppose the natural law. Current times poison the mind and hearts of our youth, which is myopic and judges unfairly. What concerns us here is not citizenship or Americanized understanding, nor patriotism. I am myself a citizen; I also understand the obligations toward my flag and country. For this I am thankful to God. However I cannot agree to the view now, or ever that the reasoning of certain die hard conservative patriots of a certain origin, who openly maintain that our America is not its own country but belongs to them only; that only they are worthy of governing, and that our duty is to sit quietly, listen and carry out their orders. In other words they always should by the lords and we must be subservient. A great part of our youth come to that conclusion. As a result of that, they change their names, forget their native tongue, and are ashamed of their origins, throw away certain national traditions, and at every chance permit themselves to the vagaries of the Polish nationality. They harp about our Americanization, which in this instance is nothing else than the idea and anglosaxon-nordic propaganda; they speak about the worth on speaking only one language, with the exception of others; they claim the supremacy of the Nordic and praise it above all others and tolerate others. They are critical especially in regard to our nationality. Blame us for one sided-ness and stubbornness. They claim that we do not want to take part in the social life of our citizens. The accuse us of building a fence around ourselves. And so, the title of my program is:

**OUR POSITION**

A few weeks ago I met up with a certain Polish lawyer. He was, no doubt, a respectable gentleman. He has a good head on his shoulders. He was educated in a Parochial school, went to college, and ultimately finished his education in one of the prestigious universities. I'll laud him for that. However his knowledge inebriated him. His head swelled. He changed into a Scandinavian. He does not want to speak in Polish, even though he was raised in Polish ways. He maintains that we ought to get rid of our Polish skin, throw it away: everything that our fathers brought with them from the old country - mix ourselves completely in the world, get rid of all practices and traditions that are ours. Then we will have equality. My dear listeners, how does that proposition sit with you? Listen to my response: Perhaps it would seem somewhat brutal to you. I said, " My dear Sir. In your ideas, the truth of the old professor rings true that the greatest idiocies are perpetrated by the most learned, and the greatest errors are made by the highest leaders. We as a nation are not turtles, who puts in and hides his head and feet and hides in the shell of nationalism. Take the fact, observable in every large American city: Are the Poles the only people who group themselves? Do not we have Italians, Germans, Irish, Jews and so forth? Do we not have the elite and the railway men of the poorest of poor. Who will compel us, here in Buffalo to create residential districts. Do you not know when our forefathers came to America, those of other nationalities did not like them but were averse to them. Perhaps they persecuted them. Where does a fellow have to go? What does he do when he comes to this country. He bought an apartment in the cheapest part of town, usually beside factories, railroad stations, and sometimes by swamps and marshes, and built huts and protected himself as best he could. He had to patiently listen to the name callings: "dirty Polack - guinea - yap - frog - foreigner" and so forth without end. how many time our people had to fistfight in order to keep working? How often did the foreigners have to gather together to create a solidarity to protect themselves. They walked in groups on streets, with sticks or canes, they were beaten or hurt. I know of several occurrences like that that they broke the foreigners hands and even put out an eye. I myself as a small lad experienced this kind of tolerance. Several blocks from our Parochial Public school, there was a public school. Around 20 Polish children attended it; the rest counted about a thousand. How those few feared the Saxon civilization. The stood in their way, ducked stones and mud thrown at them. Not only once did they return with bloody faces, black eyes, and torn clothing. Did pleas and protest help any? Nothing? Why? Because we were only "the Polish trash!" The parents of the persecutors smiled form pride that their progeny protected the Nordic honor. Who was it that built the national fence around us? Who closed the relationship between us? Other nationals. Our fathers wished to live in peace. They were not permitted to do so. Our fathers wanted relationships and camaraderie. They found none. Our father sought help and cooperation. No one handed out the hand of friendship; no one gave them a kind word and helped them out. Our people were hunted like unarmed rabbits. Why? Because they were looked upon as "European trash and foreign rot". You will tell me, Dear Sir, that that happened many years ago and that things are different now." I tear that argument apart into pieces. Just last year a young lady came to me. She wept as if her heart wanted to burst. Why? She finished her studies but wanted to educate herself to be a teacher. She went to her counselor and asking politely for recommendation. She met with coldness without any warmth. She would not give her any recommendation claiming that Polish girls should go to be maids not as teachers of American children. They ought to work like their mothers and not dream of being teachers. That should be done by Americans.

That may not be sufficient for you. Three years about a boy from our parish came to me with a recommendation of good character and so forth. Willingly I gave him a recommendation. I know him well. He graduated from one of the city schools. He studied language assiduously. He saw that one of the large stores in town had an opening for a clerk. He went there. He fill out and application and handed it in. He heard that he couldn't get the position since he comes from the east side ad has a Polish name. I know that that is unjust. Who then builds fences and separates us from society? Who confines us to a tortoise shell? Who hurts us, sweeps us and lowers us? You can complement a calf about the Saxon tolerance, about equality and Nordic brotherhood, maybe you can convince him, but not me. Everywhere, all the time I see one-sidedness, chauvinism, which demonstrate the lack of brotherly love. Take for example our political prowess. When one of the party puts forward a candidate of our nationality, the other nationalities batter him unmercifully, without considering his intelligence, ability or experience. The reason for that is because saxon-nordic blood does not flow through his veins. I noted that in the time of our conversation, my lawyer shook like a caught fish. It seems it was getting hot under the collar for him. Tell me, Sir, why don't you close your office on our Polish place and go to the city to the so called pure race of Americans? You will not do that for the simple reason in order that you would have no backing from the nationality that you once were and always remain a "foreigner"; listen, they don't have the guts to claim that we should Americanize when they know what that term means. American as translated by Webster, is a heir of European parents, born on the land of Washington. Americanism is the love and bonding which the citizens of their country show and to the other country tied to it. Americanization ultimately means to teach that love and bonding with the country and their fatherland. It's a bit foolish for them to want to Americanize our nationality in the sense that each of our fathers was Americanized as he embarked from the chip and stood on American soil. The then loved this country which opened its arms to the persecuted and enslaved and took them to itself promising them freedom and giving them the ability to work and make a living. Love of this chosen country was shown by their actions. The worked hard and lived thriftily. They bought homes and farms. They paid taxes; lived peaceably, working by the sweat of their brow enriching their country with their blood. Isn't this truly Americanism? Do we not love these children of America? And we love this country because we have rules and authority to which they do not want us to posses, because we use this country as our own, which gives us so much, and to which we have obligation which no one can talk himself out of. I repeat that we showed especially in the world war. Our men do not wait to be drafted. In order to join the army and navy, they added a couple years to their actual age. In the meantime what did the sons of elite nordics do? When their names were chosen, they hid behind their mother's skirts or wives, but hid behind the aprons of their of their grandmothers and aunts. They tried to talk themselves out of service. The tried to avoid entering by talking about their obligations and hid in barrooms to avoid service. Whose job is it to Americanize us. They, us or we them. Today they crow and shout that they only are true Americans. These and those similar to them have a pretense to the flag, which they didn't have the guts to defend. The and those similar claim that America is their land and fatherland and we ought to thank them that they let us live here. They are not concerned with real Americanization but only Anglicization. Please listen to what Congressman Johnson said some time ago: "The Poles are a part of the city of Buffalo, although their settlement if Poland, like Warsaw itself. This does not mean, however, that the Buffalo Poles are not Americans. Their settlement is certainly American under every way of looking at it and of necessity they use their native language instead of English. Is the English language the mark or at least one of the marks indicative that one is an American? Is it the only key to happiness on this earth or even to the gates of heaven. Thank God because even in these cases our nationality will help itself. We survived long before America was even discovered and we will survive. Do only the Nordics have a patent on the English language? Since when? They don't know the in's and out's of the English language themselves and they want to teach us. Our language is used as a gift of God and handed down by our forefathers. It came to us in a testament of tears and sprinkled well with blood. Our language is greatly bound with our faith that getting rid of it, we are as a loss to Church and God. The experience of our life grants us that. It shows us the history of our emigration. I do not add examples at this time but I will return to the topic in the future. I will, however, add the verses of Susan Morawski who sings thusly about "The language of the fatherland":

This is a great strength - an unconsumed strength

From the heart of the nation and of the spirit born -

A force - which will never die in a nation

Wrapped in speech.

Speech - is a holiness for whose altars

Love of Country builds from blood and wounds.

Prays with her, thinks and feels

With its spirit

Speech - is a matrix, which in its object

Rocks us to sleep and awakens us to life

Sheds tears with us and worries with us

Rocking us to sleep and awaking life,

Pours tears with us in enchanted words

When we have a hard time.

For that reason, as it was in the preceding hundred years, across the ocean they reminiscently sang, and we here we repeated their song: "We will not give up the land of our forefathers," and so here we will always sing: "We will not give up our language which gave birth to us." Protecting our language and using it among ourselves, in our homes, schools and Churches, we will not be worse Americans than the Saxons and the Nordics who show their chauvinistic Americanism in the crippled English language. They are not satisfied with language. The prove with their reasonable Americanism with works of citizenship. Why this, when. here especially in America, much is written about equality, unity, brotherhood and it is unpracticed. From those who claim to be the chosen, there is so much one sidedness, bigotry and chauvinism and they consider us outcasts. They consider themselves the cream of the crop and consider us as nothing. I am neither a pessimist or a cynic. I claim only the fact that they have shut us out.

I am curious what such 100 % Americans would say to President Roosevelt's talk to the nation when he said, "It would be good that we all remember that America is the not product of any race, faith or class. Men and women -your fathers and mine - came from every corner of the world with a variety of beliefs!" Let me add these words, "President Roosevelt speaking over a nationwide radio hook-up, had the magnificent frankness and courage, to state a great and real American truth when he said: Quote: "It is well for us to remember that America is the product of no single race or creed or class. Men and women - your fathers and mine - came here from the far corners of the earth with beliefs that widely varied.: (End of quotation.)

It is too b ad that not everyone knows about that. And if they know about it they fail to understand and. America is too big to be the nest of one nationality; too many nationalities worked and gave their all to build this great country. The spirit of American democracy militates the attempt to create some kind of aristocracy which would be able to take privileges onto itself over and above that of other nationalities. The concept of American freedom does not allow some monolithic faith. America is not the owned by one nationality, one race, or one religion. The citizens of America is a long chain, strong and beautiful comprised of various races and various beliefs. Whoever does not believe this, let him repeatedly read the Constitution of the United States from September 17th of 1787. I doubt whether that would happen in any event.

My dear listeners, I can visualize your turning your faces to me, asking on simple question: Tell us what we are to do? Is our situation never to change? Listen how I will answer you: I foresee a great future for us. We need not helplessly raise our hands. No human power is able to destroy us. We need to go forward with conviction. No doubt difficulties and obstacles await us not only from other nationalities and even our own. We should not be afraid. Every just effort needs dedication, sacrifice and battle. Have we up to this time achieved this without effort and dedication? Besides, isn't this why God created us in the first place. History teaches us that in the past others had an appetite to assail us and gritted their teeth. They did not succeed. Voices said: Forget giving difficulties to the Poles for it is useless." The advice was taken up. Consider how in times past the Silesians swore. They met in some stable. Between two candles, they put a cross. They placed their fingers on a cross, the left hand they touched devotional books and repeated; "I promise you, God Almighty until my last breath and with as much strength that I have to the end of my life that I will guard my language and will not renounce it...I will not let my children forget it...I will not sell my soul to the Nazi's and until the time when Poland will regain its status, so help me God and dear Lady of Czestochowa and all the saints in heaven. And if I was a traitor to Poland and became a Judas...let me not escape the punishment forever and ever." God permit that all of us were of the same sentiment. Please dear God, do not consider this vengeance or desire to rule, but a way of self defense, to which every nationality has the natural right of self determination. Our situation has to change and it will. We will bring down the walls of one sidedness, and the walls of chauvinism, which they built around us. America is home for all of and we are a part of it and we together form the whole - America.