

SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. HAROLD J. BRUNNIER,
PRESIDENT OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
AT THE MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF TOKYO
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Mr. President, Fellow Rotarians and Guests:

I have talked in the last few days with so many of your groups and to each of these groups I have tried to say something a little different. However, I have said on many occasions that there are some fundamental things in Rotary that are going actively and rapidly to their full course.

First of all, I want to express in this last opportunity my thanks to all of you for the many courtesies that have been accorded to Mrs. Brunnier and myself and for the attendance we had everywhere. Particularly in view of the fact that this being a holiday season, I appreciate very much your interest in coming to hear your President talk.

The Club is complimented on its activities. I am glad to know that you do have vocational service that works because so many clubs have had some doubts as to the kind of attention to be given to vocational service.

As you may know, we started in Chicago in 1905. A young attorney in that large city tried to get along but he had some competitors around with whom it was difficult to make friends. Then he conceived the idea if he could get men from different lines of business and profession together, they would be friends throughout and they could develop their friendship and fellowship. The idea worked. In about three and a half years, in 1908, it came to San Francisco. A member of the Chicago Club came to San Francisco and I, being acquainted with a young attorney there, brought them together. The former talked about the Club in Chicago and the latter organized Club No. 2 in San Francisco, in which I became a charter member. Within six months thereafter two more clubs were organized in Seattle and Los Angeles. By 1910 there were 15 clubs with about 1600 members. All the members got the idea that if they could be organized into an association, they might be helpful to each other and work out a unified plan. Thus, the National Association of Rotary Club was formed. It was purely American at that time. In 1912 at the Convention in Duluth the first organization outside of the United States came from Winnipeg, Canada and the International Association of Rotary Clubs was formed. In 1922 when we changed the Constitution and By-laws, we abbreviated the name down to Rotary International, as we know it today.

Rotary is an organization designed for good fellowship and understanding. The first avenue of service is club service. In club service we develop the individual so that he may serve in the other services. One cannot be a leader unless he can get up on his feet and talk. I could give you many examples of how men have been developed by Rotary so that they are able to serve in the other services. We have more than 7600 clubs developing over 7600 leaders every year because they can get up on their feet and talk. I could give you many other illustrations but suffice it to say that if Rotary has done nothing else in its work, it should continue to exist because of the opportunities it has developed for training for leadership. When I addressed a Club in the Philippines, they said, "If you give any member a chance, he will talk for hours."

Then the second avenue of service is vocational service. I am very pleased to hear your Chairman making his report because for some reasons

they feel that vocational service is a very difficult one to carry on. But I could give you a number of examples to show you that such is not the case. I would like to give you a recent experience in the San Francisco Club. The Vocational Service Committee sent out a form letter to all members and asked them questions: "Do you belong to a trade or professional organization? If you do, please send in your constitution and by-laws." These were collected and the Committee digested them. It was found that most of them belonged to trade organizations all right but most of those organizations were organized for the purpose of protecting themselves either on tax matters or on legal matters or something else. So the called members together to discuss their constitutions and by-laws and have them work along with the ideals of Rotary.

It can be done. In my own profession I organized structural engineers. Unfortunately I did not bring my notes to show you the details but I can assure you that I really organized them. I am very proud that it certainly is Rotary throughout. Structural Engineers of California are the top of all the professions because of the influence of Rotary that has taught them to work along the ideals we have in Rotary. Not only they cooperate among themselves but their first thought is to be of some service to their clients and to the business before it benefits them.

Now let me tell you about the third avenue of service, community service. It seems one of the easier services because there is not a club anywhere in the world that does not do a job in community service. As a matter of fact, I can say without fear that wherever there is a Rotary club that community is better off because of Rotary. The personal satisfaction I have achieved in Rotary is only made richer by this knowlege. Now, you can do things in community service by direct action, that is the club work, but I recommend that instead of a club doing it an existing agency should be sought to do the job. When I say that we should have some existing organization to take on the job, I would like to show how much more effective it would be if they do it instead of the club trying to do the job.

In San Francisco, for instance, many years ago we had no crippled children's schools. Children in the State of California must go to school until they are 16 or until they graduate from high school. But crippled children's parents do not like public schools and the crippled do not like to go, either, as we discovered. We did a little explaining to a small group there and got a taxicab company to bring such kinds to the Club free of charge. We wanted to make our contribution. When the taxicab drivers knew about this, they refused to be paid for bringing the children to the Club. We had about 14 or 15 kids. Then we went to the Board of Education and convinced them that there is a need for a shool for crippled children. We in Rotary could not have taken any greater risk than to have a small section of the crippled children under our care. The promotion of a bigger project had to be influenced by the whole community.

Rotary is predominantly for youth service. In Europe there is an exchange program between various countries which have Rotary where children of club members are exchanged for short periods. It gives youths a chance to understand and develop fellowship between youths of other countries.

Rotary International has a special scholarship fund which is designed to send post-graduate students to the university of their choice and to the country of their choice. This year Rotary International is sponsoring 109 such students from many different countries of the world. We hope to double that number next year. Nabe Shimizu of Tokyc completed a year of study at Cornell University under this program and another Japanese student will be selected for the coming year.

The Japanese Rotary, though young, is growing fast and will soon be in position to give vital community service to this country. It is certainly the most progressive Rotary organization in the Far East.

Now, the fourth avenue of service is international service. Membership card that you carry with you is a passport to 84 countries in which there are more than 7600 clubs. You present your card to any club anywhere in the world and you are immediately among friends. I am sure many of you have experienced that. I have, many many times. What is more, it gives you the opportunity of making acquaintance of leaders of the community and the social spirit---the spirit for understanding. When we were coming to the Tokyo Conference in 1928, Rotarians from New Zealand got on the boat at Honolulu to join us and come to Tokyo with us. We got to talking that Rotary was a wonderful organization because it afforded us the opportunity to meet and understand each other.

Now we can go a long way trying to do the job in promoting international understanding but we have a long way to go before we will have what we are looking for - World Peace. World peace is a big thing. Things do not just happen. It takes leadership. We, Rotarians, are selected because we are leaders in our business and professions. We are training for leadership in club service. In order to have peace it is going to depend upon you and me as individuals, not only as Rotarians but plain individuals. But we in Rotary should furnish the leadership so that people will make it a point to be influenced on national and international affairs. They should be led to do some thinking, cooperate with their elected officials and tell them what to do. You, too, as individuals should be willing to put forth effort to do something about it. Not until then we will have peace. We in Rotary are leaders.

I thank you.