

City of Cambridge

EULOGY IN MEMORY OF THE LATE ANDREW FILLIOS

9/17/71

The City of Cambridge is preparing to celebrate the 125th anniversary of its incorporation. An elaborate program has been formulated to extol the virtues and glorious past of its history. Eloquent speeches undoubtedly are being written and musical pieces are being rehearsed in order to observe this historic event properly. The City of Learning, the University City, will attempt to relive the pages of history which portray its accomplishments and its achievements through the years. Nostalgia will run rampant and a sense of self-satisfaction will imbue the being of many.

Somehow the events of recent years, recent months and recent days have dampened this feeling for I am concerned primarily with the present and future of this city. I myself cannot generate any enthusiasm on such an historic occasion when I perceive the deteriorating conditions which have steadily undermined the safety and welfare of our fellow citizens.

We were horrified a few months ago when another of our merchants was bludgeoned to death on Pearl Street. This man was the Godfather of the man who today finds himself a victim of a similar insane act. At that time we expressed the hope that such events might awaken society to re-examine its values, re-assess its goals and review its heritage and in the process possibly effect some noticeable change, some positive reaction to the problems which beset it.

However, our hopes and prayers and aspirations were not fulfilled. Instead, conditions have worsened, respect for others has steadily declined and we live in a society where fear is rampant, where lawlessness is permitted to go unchecked and where chaotic conditions are the rule rather than the exception because we have become accustomed to these events and we have taken them for granted

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Our fears were renewed the other day. Our hopes for a more peaceful and sane society were shattered once again. For the second time within a few months another of our parishioners, "friend and neighbor" has brutally been murdered as he was conducting his duties in his place of business. This was totally senseless, tragic in that he offered no resistance, no provocation, did not put up a struggle and yet was gunned down mercilessly. Waves of revulsion and shock engulfed all of us upon hearing the tragic news. Here was a man who was minding his own business, who was working from morning to night, six days a week in order to provide employment for others, to provide a necessary service for his neighbors and friends, who was self reliant so as not to burden his family or society and perhaps serve, encourage and motivate others to follow his example. What was his reward for demonstrating such admirable qualities, for befriending his fellow-man? He was gunned down and those who really knew him grieve on this day.

Oh yes, there will be some who will concern themselves with the rights of the murderers when they are apprehended. They will insist that their rights be fully and completely protected. But what about the right of Andrew Fillios to go peacefully about his business? What about his right to live? What about our rights? Must we set them aside and permit the lawless elements to assume control of our lives and destinies?

Part of the responsibility lies with the do-gooders who only appear when they wish to protect the interests and rights of the lawless elements of society. Part of the responsibility also rests with members of the courts who on many occasions coddle offenders thus encouraging them to violate the law again and again. Part of

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the responsibility rests with members of the legal profession who seem to be overly eager to protect the rights of lawbreakers, seizing upon every technicality to set them free again and foster them on a society which is already decadent and sick. Part of the responsibility also rests with society with its inequities which in some instances fosters such gross departures from accepted behavior.

It is my humble opinion that only moral men can really be free and self-governing. I believe in self-discipline and self-reliance. I believe that in order for education to bear fruit, development of character is absolutely imperative. Education only equips you for a better life. What you do with the knowledge and insight gained determines what your contribution to society will be.

There still may be time for this society to correct itself and assume responsibility for its citizens. Excellence of character is needed and this will emerge only when we refuse to be crushed by the temptations, storms and hardships of life and instead seize them as necessary processes which we must pass in order to bring forth the best that there is within us. Anything less than this, means continued depravation, degradation, enslavement of mind, body and soul. It means that Andrew Fillios and many others like him, will have died and will die in vain.

City of Cambridge

Councillor Sullivan

In City Council,

September 20, 1971.

ORDERED:-

That the City Clerk be and hereby is directed to spread upon the minutes of this City Council the eulogy rendered by Very Reverend Arthur T. Metaxas at the funeral services for Andrew Fillios conducted on Friday, September 17, 1971 at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Constantine and Helen.

City Council Sept 20, 1971

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

Paul E. Healy
City Clerk

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ORDER

City Clerk directed to spread upon the minutes of this City Council the eulogy delivered by Very Rev. Arthur T. Metaxas on the death of Andrew Fillios

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September 20, 1971.

Mr. Sullivan

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