

TOM, IT<sup>IS</sup> TERRIBLY HARD NOT<sup>TO</sup> FEEL SAD, NOT TO FEEL A LITTLE BIT LONELY — NOT TO FEEL AN AGONIZING SENSE OF LOSS. BUT IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR WISHES, I ALSO FEEL GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LIFE, AM VERY PROUD THAT YOU WERE A PRODUCT OF OREGON & THAT, BECAUSE OF YOU WE ALL SHARE THE ENORMOUS JOY OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US.

YOU HAVE NOT REALLY GONE, FOR IN THIS ROOM — AND THROUGHOUT THIS MAGNIFICENT STATE — ~~YOU ARE STILL LIVE~~ <sup>YOU ARE STILL LIVE</sup>. NO ONE OF US MEASURES UP TO YOUR GRAND SCALE, BUT WE ARE HERE AND COLLECTIVELY WE LOVE OUR STATE AND THE BEAUTY OF IT AS YOU DID. ~~AND~~ <sup>OF WHICH</sup> COLLECTIVELY WE WILL NOT LET GO ALL THOSE VIRTUES, <sup>OF WHICH</sup> YOU SPOKE SO BRILLIANTLY.

IT MIGHT SEEM A LITTLE AUDACIOUS<sup>OF ME</sup>, TOM, BUT I WOULD LIKE<sup>ANSWER A</sup> ~~TO~~ <sup>TO</sup> DEEP ~~BEING~~ <sup>DEEP</sup> NAGGING CONCERN YOU ONCE EXPRESSED.

YOU SAID:

I'd done some audacious things, and they have cost me terribly. I say to myself: If I had held my tongue once in a while. . . . But why should I?

I'm sort of shattered, but I'm still useful. I'm just living day to day, making speeches and challenging the know-nothings and trying to tell people that they're being heard again. And wondering where is the glow of yesteryear? Wondering where the heroes went. Gosh, I don't know how long ago they left.

Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say: This is my community, and it's my responsibility to make it better. Interweave all these communities, and you really have an America that is back on its feet, a comfortable nation to live in again. I really think we're gonna have to reassess what constitutes a hero.

WONDER NO MORE, TOM — YOU HAVE SHOWN US WHAT CONSTITUTES A GENUINE HERO

THANK YOU — & GOD BLESS YOU —