

Part Three: Who We Are

Narrator 2: Well, first of all we're a working people. On the land, at the work bench, at a desk. And we're an inventive people. The lightning rod, cotton gin, the telegraph, the blessed anesthesia of ether, the rotary printing press, the telephone, electric welding, the incandescent lamp, submarine, steam turbine, the motor-driven airplane, the x-ray tube, the gyroscope compass, the sewing machine, television: all these and countless more bear witness to our inventiveness.

Cat: Meow.

Narrator 2: And this inventiveness and enterprise, plus our hard-won democratic ideal of the greatest good for the greatest number, created for the average man the highest standard of living in the world. Thirty-two and a half million registered automobiles, two-thirds of all the automobiles there are in the entire world.

We demand the highest standards in sanitation, purity of food, medical care. Our hospitals are models for the world to copy. We want the best for the average man, woman, or child – particularly child. We have reduced the hazard of being born. From then on we protect, foster, and generally spoil the majority of our children. But it doesn't seem to hurt them much. They go to school, all kinds of schools: to kindergartens, public schools, private schools, trade schools, high schools (to 25,000 high schools), and to college. In the last war 20 percent of all the men in the armed forces had been to high school or college; in this war, 63 percent.

We're a great two weeks vacation people. We hunt, and we fish. Up north, down south, back east, out west – when the season opens we hunt and fish. We're a sports-loving people. And we're probably the travelingest nation in all history. We love to go places. We have the cars, we have the roads, we have the scenery. We don't need passports, but sometimes we need alibis. We sleep by the road; we eat by the road. The foreigner is enchanted and amazed by what we like to put on our stomachs.

And we're a great joining people. We join clubs, fraternities, unions, federations. Shove a blank at us, we'll sign up. Radios – we have one in the living room, the dining room, the bedroom, the bathroom, in our cars, in our hands, and up our sleeves.

Radio Announcer: Does your cigarette taste different lately?

Narrator 2: Music – we couldn't be without it.

The press? Yes it's the biggest, but most important it's the freest on Earth: over 12,000 newspapers of all shades of opinion; books on every conceivable subject; and more than 6,000 different magazines, not counting the comics. Churches? We have every denomination on Earth. Sixty million of us regularly attend and no one dares tell us which one to go to. We elect our own neighbors to govern us. We believe in individual enterprise and opportunity for men and women alike. We make mistakes. We see the results. We correct the mistakes. We skyrocket into false prosperities, and then plummet down into false needless depressions. But in spite of everything, we never lose our faith in the future. We believe in the future. We build for the future.