

JOHN H. SYRNICK

# MY CREDO

Final part of a message delivered by  
The Late JOHN H. SYRNICK  
during the First Congress of Ukrainians  
in the Free World in New York,  
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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
UKRAINIAN SELF-RELIANCE LEAGUE OF CANADA

— MARCH 1974 —



**The Late John H. SYRNICK**

## — MY CREDO —

Instead of succumbing to the influences of our surroundings, let us place before ourselves a clear image of our future — let us forge a clear program — let us work out what I would call a national "credo" based upon immutable postulates. I have endeavoured to outline such a "credo". It is, obviously, far from perfect and complete but, I think, it can serve as material for better formulation of the ideology of our diaspora.

1. I am a citizen of the country of my birth. As her citizen, I shall respect her democratic freedoms. In the event of dangers from outside, I shall defend my country with my life and my wealth. I shall use those rights and privileges which my country gives to her citizens, remembering at the same time that these rights and privileges place upon me certain obligations. I shall, therefore, participate in the many areas of my country's life: in politics and economics, in school systems and education and in all the spheres of her life.

2. Besides the citizenship of my country I have, in addition, my separate spiritual citizenship. This is my "holy of holies". I am a Ukrainian and at no price shall I deny my Ukrainian spirituality. I cannot deny my Ukrainian heritage any more than I can deny my parents — otherwise this would imply that I never had parents. I can change citizenship by taking up residence in another country and accepting a new citizenship, but I cannot change my national heritage.

3. I acknowledge the colossal and irreplaceable role of the Church in the life of a nation and I shall, always and everywhere, support the Church morally and materially. I shall expect spiritual and national uplifting from my Ukrainian Church. I shall expect that the Church shall guard and protect the national attributes of my people. The Church with the people and the people with the Church — this is the prerequisite of national strength and for the preservation of Ukrainians in the diaspora.

4. As a Ukrainian and a Christian, I cannot become reconciled with Communism or any other totalitarian system or ideology. I shall stand firmly on democratic principles because only a democratic system provides the greatest guarantee for a free development of an individual or a people.

6. I shall support the creative work of our educationalists, writers and artists who contribute so much to Ukrainian education, literature and arts which cannot be freely done by the Ukrainians in enslaved Ukraine.

7. I shall strive to preserve the Ukrainian language in my home, in my organization and in my Church. I shall support the Ukrainian language schools, the Ukrainian press and publications and I shall foster respect for the printed Ukrainian word.

8. I shall conduct myself so as to uplift and strengthen the good opinion towards Ukrainians in my community and I shall disperse objective information about Ukraine in my community so that she shall gain friends for herself, for I believe that this is one of the means by which I can assist the Ukrainian people.

9. I shall take the stand that there must be order in our life in the diaspora, that a spirit of unity be fostered, and I shall strive that priority to all-Ukrainian interests be given over group interests.

10. On the fiftieth year since the Ukrainian National Revolution began, I vow to be faithful to the ideals of the Ukrainian people who had climaxed their desire to establish an independent Ukrainian Nation in the form of the Ukrainian National Republic.

In this, O Lord, help me!