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This is Phil Arnot for Community Comment on KINS Radio.

Being a student of history, I came across an article written by Herbert Hoover, the 31<sup>st</sup> President of the United States. The article was entitled "The Uncommon Man".

"In my opinion, there has been too much talk about the Common Man. It has been drilled into us that this is the Century of the Common Man. The idea seems to be that the Common Man has come into his own at last.

Thus we are in danger of developing a cult of the Common Man, which means a cult of mediocrity. But there is at least one hopeful sign: I have never been able to find out who this Common Man is. In fact, most Americans, and especially women, will get mad and fight if you try calling them common.

This is hopeful because it shows that most people holding fast to an essential fact in American life. We believe in equal opportunity for all, but we know that this includes the opportunity to rise to leadership - in other words, to be uncommon.

Let us remember that the great human advances have not been brought about by mediocre men and women. They were brought about by distinctly uncommon people with vital sparks of leadership. Many of the great leaders were of humble origin, but that alone was not their greatness.

It is a fact that when you get sick you want an uncommon doctor; if your car breaks down you want an uncommonly good mechanic; when we get into war we want dreadfully an uncommon admiral and uncommon general.

I never have met a father and mother who did not want their children to grow up to be uncommon men and women. May it always be so. For the future of America rests not in mediocrity, but in the constant renewal of leadership in every phase of our national life.

(Herbert Hoover, 31<sup>st</sup> President of the United States, was himself "an uncommon man of humble origin." His father was a blacksmith, his mother a traveling preacher. Herbert's first job was office boy for a real estate firm. He worked his way through Stanford University selling newspapers.)

I leave you with a point to ponder. Don't you agree with President Hoover that it has been the uncommon men and women who have made our Country strong?

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