

A quote from Daniel Webster that Jerry admired, originally in Chapter 5:

He ran across something that seemed appropriate to his town and his role. It was a quote from Daniel Webster, one of the giants of Massachusetts politics in the 19th century. Jerry tacked it up on the bulletin board near his desk. It had a little color engraving of Webster, surrounded by fancy colored decoration. It was headlined “An American.”

I was born an American; I will live an American; I shall die an American; and I intend to perform the duties incumbent upon me in that character to the end of my career. I mean to do this with absolute disregard of personal consequences. . . . No man can suffer too much, no man can fall too soon, if he suffer, or if he fall, in the defense of the liberties and constitution of his country.

Jerry thought it was profound. He thought Webster had given him and his listeners some words to live by.

Of course, he himself didn't intend to do **everything** with “absolute disregard of personal consequences.”

We found this quote, considerably worn and filled with tack holes, among Jerry's papers. and we have fantasized about how he used it.