

ourselves the question: What will the new era be like? What kind of civilization will we build for ourselves?

The great global conflict which we know as World War II left this planet on which we live divided into two hostile camps, one comprised of nations dedicated to the principles and ideals of democracy and the other consisting of nations adhering to the doctrine of communism. The leadership of the division of nations which pursues the ideals and principles of democracy fell into our hands, not so much because we sought it but because we alone possessed the strength to provide that leadership. This is the heaviest responsibility ever placed upon this nation of ours, and the way we discharge this responsibility will, in a large measure, determine the course of mankind in the future. The world now is engulfed in a fierce conflict—a conflict which we did not choose and do not like, but a conflict which, try as we may, we cannot escape. It is a conflict of arms, involving the most serious military threat our country has ever faced. In an armaments race unprecedented in history, we stand in grave danger constantly of being out-distanced by our enterprising and ingenious rivals, the Russians. It is a conflict, too, of educational systems, and we note with great concern the almost incredible progress Soviet Russia has made in the education of its people during the past forty years. Their achievements in space exploration would indicate that in some areas the Russians already are ahead of us in research and technology, and this presents a most challenging prospect.

It is a contest to see who will produce the sharpest intellects, the toughest minds. It is a conflict, also, of wills: Who will work the hardest? Who will exert the most effort? Who will show the strongest determination? And it is a conflict of ideals, of philosophies of life, with the peoples of the democracies and the peoples of the communist nations poles apart in the way they look at things.

Finally—and most important of all, I think—it is a conflict of religious concepts. One force teaches men to love God, and to love God, we who were brought up in the Christian faith know so well, one must love his fellowman.

It is quite certain, I believe, that this world conflict is moving to a climax. We call this conflict the “Cold War,” but a cold war, like any other war, does not go on forever. In one way or another, the conflict will be resolved.

What are we as Christians to do in this savage warfare that goes on all about us? I believe the time has come when we of the Christian faith