

symbol of American progress, millions of human beings throughout the whole world are engaged in struggles that are the very antithesis of everything we hold dear in America. While every energy of our more than one hundred million people is directed to the development and furtherance of our cultural and physical possessions, countless numbers elsewhere in Europe and Asia are engaged in the dreadful task of tearing down the cultural and physical achievements of centuries.

Here we stand in free assemblage, subject in the final analysis to no dictator but our own conscience. In other countries millions of people, with hope and ambitions little different from ours, are being regimented to the extent that their every deed, must be done at the direction of an exacting government. While we continue to build and plan for the future, who knows but at this very moment some such building as this in one of the warring countries of Europe, may be the target for a bomb that will undo the work of years of toil, and destroy perhaps a treasured work of art.

Well may we, as we stand assembled here to celebrate this, the completion of the formal occupancy of this building, well may we, I say, offer up a quiet, but heartfelt, prayer of thanksgiving that despite all the tribulations and griefs that assail the rest of the world, we here in Maryland, and throughout all America, may go our way in peace, and look securely to a future of peaceful development for ourselves and for our families.

How some Americans, enjoying such advantages as we possess, could lend themselves to the furtherance of disloyal aims, is beyond all comprehension. Yet undoubtedly, among the subversive elements that we all know are working within the confines of our Country, are many men and women who have been born to the blessing of American citizens, or who, by reason of their adoption of this Country, have been privileged to prevail themselves of the advantages which are ours.

As Americans who know and value the priceless privileges that we possess, it should be the duty of each one of us to be particularly on the alert during these troublesome times to do everything in our power to counteract disloyal and subversive movements. As American citizens, we must first of all in our own daily lives set an example of law-observance, and of respect for American ideals and traditions, that will be an example to everyone with whom we come in contact, and particularly to those whose Americanism may not be as staunch as ours.

As the Governor of Maryland, I congratulate the citizens of Hagerstown who now possess this most desirable building. Further, I congratulate your Mayor and Council and all whose energies are represented in this finished product for their enterprise and vision, in thus providing for the future needs of their Municipal Government. It is a genuine pleasure to be here with you to help celebrate such an occasion, marking as it does a distinct advance in the cause of good government. My hope and expectation are that Hagerstown will derive benefits more than commensurate with the investment, and that an efficient and economical administration of public affairs will be promoted by this center of municipal activities.