

Today in face of the dangers that threaten our Country from without, and with full knowledge of the forces seeking to weaken us from within, I contend that now as never before it is the duty of every American citizen to give deep and solemn thought to the liberties he enjoys, and to the responsibilities his American citizenship entails. Today there is no room in this Country for petty divisions of thought because of political, racial, or other causes. As Americans all, we must realize the serious situation confronting this Country, as well as the rest of the world, and that, without becoming hysterical, we must prepare in a material way so completely that we may be able to safe-guard the integrity of this Nation in any emergency.

This is no time, I repeat, for division of opinion based upon any other foundation than the Country's best good. My twenty years of experience in the public life of this State with Italian-Americans have given me the opportunity to know of their devotion to this Country and their adherence to its ideals and principles. I can vouch for their complete and undivided loyalty and support in any cause affecting the interests of this Nation. In every test to which they have been put, the Italian-Americans of Maryland have more than measured up to everything expected of them.

As one proud of the contribution made by them to our citizenship, I can say with assurance that no element of our citizenry is more steadfast and dependable than the Italian-Americans and I am supremely confident that they will ever remain so.

ANNAPOLIS HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

June 19, 1940

Annapolis

THESE are soul-stirring times, as probably no one appreciates more fully than the young graduates of today, as they contemplate the troubled state of the world in which they so soon seek their destiny. Truly it is a world seething in turmoil, and full of the most serious problems, affecting every one of us. But it is a world, too, that is ready to bestow its recognition and its richest rewards upon those who, by outstanding industry and achievements, show themselves worthy of the advancement they seek.

Fortunate it is, for the thousands upon thousands of graduates throughout the length and breadth of our land, that they are living in, and prospective citizens of, a country, where free enterprise is the right and privilege of every individual, and where a system of government prevails under which every young man and woman can look forward to a future whose accomplishments will be limited only by the limitations of one's own ability and industry.

Never in all the history of education in these United States have young people starting out in life more sincere cause for congratulations than today. As graduates of this splendid school, you have many things for which to be thankful, but chief of all these things is the fact that you are an American, and, as such, entitled to civic rights and privileges such as are, at the moment, granted to the residents of no other country on the face of the universe. Appreciate this fact to the utmost, I beg of you, and never for a moment let