

much emphasis, citizenship in such a country brings with it duties and responsibilities which no one has a right to shirk if he or she desires to claim the privilege of citizenship. We live in a democracy, which means a system of government by the people themselves. Such a system of government manifestly can be only as good as the people who compose it. It isn't enough to stand aloof, to refuse to take a part in the everyday administration of affairs, and then to be bitterly critical of the results accomplished.

Every young graduate of today must be willing to accept and share the responsibilities of citizenship if we are to have in the future the type of intelligent leadership and support that will be so vital to possibly the very existence of our Country. In the future the duty of sharing the responsibility of government is one that lies with special force upon the heads of those who, like yourselves, have been favored beyond others in the matter of education. We have a splendid heritage here in America, but unless we do our share to preserve it we shall not deserve to keep it.

It is a common plaint among unthinking people that the door of opportunity its import escape you. It is the fundamental material consideration in your life.

Tonight, as you prepare to step forth from the portals of this institution that has thrown its protective influence about you these past four years, make up your mind to one thing:—that, come what may, irrespective of the amount of success that may crown your efforts in the years that lie ahead, you will treasure to your innermost heart the appreciation of what it means to you to be an American. Resolve that you will never do, or say, or even contemplate anything that might tend to weaken or destroy the system of free American government that has meant so much to the world of the past century and a half, and that is so infinitely important for the well-being of millions throughout the world in the troubled period just dawning.

The plea I make is not intended to be a clarion call to heroic action, but rather a rallying call for loyal Americanism expressed in the everyday routine of your civic and business contacts. There is an immediate way of proving devotion and of helping to preserve and perpetuate the system of government that has become so truly a part and parcel of the American way of living. And frankly, it is a phase in which all too many of our foremost citizens frequently fail to live up to their duty.

It is a splendid thing to be a citizen of a country whose liberal institutions set an example for the rest of the world, but, and I cannot say it with too has been closed, and that men and women of today, particularly of the younger generations have less incentive for their efforts than was the case in generations gone by. Perhaps at times as you tried to make up your mind about your own individual futures, some such thought may have occurred to you. I am sure, however, that when you consider current conditions in all important phases of our national and economic life, you will agree that never before in the history of mankind did the future offer such a challenge to youth as it does today.

You have been fortunate to have had the opportunity of spending four years within an institution so well equipped to prepare you in an especial way for the competition of life. Those of you who can do so should give serious thought to the possibility of continuing your studies, particularly if you who already have chosen the sphere of life in which you figure to accomplish the most. Living, and making one's living, has become much more complex today