

liberties at home, which is to say, the right of a free people to be unmolested and, secondly, our honor before the world, that which allows no tyrant to offer us his bloody hand.

SALISBURY—DEFENSE PARADE AND MEETING

September 23, 1940

Salisbury

FEW there are here tonight, I daresay, who, viewing this splendid demonstration of the American will-for-preparedness, would consider it a Peace Demonstration. Certainly, if any of the dictator-ruled countries of Europe had observers here, they might consider tonight's ceremonies as the clearest of indications that America was well along the road toward war.

However, any thinking American, who wishes to interpret properly the spirit behind this and similar demonstrations that are being staged throughout America—anyone who seeks to probe the mind and hearts of the rank and file of the American citizens, will find that instead of being in a war-like, troublesome mood, the people of America are resolved more than ever to keep out of war, as long as it is humanly and honorably possible to do so. But they have come at last to realize—before it is too late, thank Heaven,—that the surest way to peace in these days of upset world conditions is to be so well prepared that even the most militaristic dictator must realize that it would not be safe to attack America.

In arranging, therefore, for this splendid demonstration of America's National Defense efforts, the people of Salisbury and this entire section are but giving utterance to the principles of love of country and humanity that have become so apparent everywhere in our Nation these past few months. This national determination, so impressively shown here this evening, is that we shall, in united effort, give everything we have, if needed;—that not only will we contribute our material possessions, but we will willingly sacrifice the comforts and conveniences of our American mode of life, and in the final analysis be willing to yield our own lives, rather than to permit to happen in our own Country the disaster that has overtaken so many of the countries of Europe.

About a year ago, early in last October, I was privileged to participate, along with several thousand other residents of our State, in an impressive "Peace for America" celebration at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore. At that gathering, outstanding citizens including some of national prominence, stressed in no uncertain terms America's determination to remain at peace, a determination that the great mistake made some twenty years earlier must not be repeated.

As I pointed out on that occasion, our Nation in 1917 made the understandable error of judging foreign affairs by the standard of American ideals. The mistake was made of imputing to European peoples and rulers the ideals of humanitarianism and good will that always have been the basis of American foreign policy. We had found, to our sorrow, however, that it is impossible to compare the European viewpoint with American understanding of national