

threatens, Democracy in America will be able to survive unimpaired only so long as we are prepared adequately, spiritually as well as economically, to help it to survive.

In the philosophy of these new masters, there is no rule except the rule of force. The salvation of Democracy, therefore, demands the meeting of force with force—hence our defense program.

In the face of such an appalling possible disaster to all that we know, love, and hold most dear, it becomes the instant bounden duty of men and women throughout our land to devote their best thoughts, their most unselfish motives and action unstintedly for unity and the common good.

In such circumstances the contribution made will necessarily vary according to position, opportunity and ability. Because of that fact, let me suggest that more will be expected of the members of your Federation than will be expected of some other portions of the community. Your station in life, your educational qualifications, your position of leadership in your community, place that additional obligation upon you.

The contribution required of the women of Maryland, and of the nation, in this time of crisis, must be spiritual, rather than material. You will not be called upon to do man's work—to be soldiers, to till the field, or to run the machines in the factories as is the case in some of the dictator-ruled countries. But you will be called upon to help build up the spiritual and moral forces of our people; the will to give, and to endure; unity of national thought. You can be of the utmost assistance in the development of a full realization of the danger, now facing our Country; you can fan an intensive blaze of patriotism; with your help, America can steel herself to an unselfish determination to wage the fight to the bitter end, rather than yield even one of those priceless rights that are our heritage as citizens of America.

One of the most gratifying aspects of the intensive planning now under way to insure the effective administration of the Selective Training and Service Act, is the whole-hearted willingness of the women of our State, to give of their time and efforts, in any capacity which may be required. On October 16, in the various registration places of our State, women will serve as registrars in many, many instances. In fact, we would have had no trouble, I believe, in manning the registration places completely with women, if it had been found desirable to do so.

No one among us would be rash enough to predict what the outcome of the present titanic struggles in Europe and Asia will be, or what effects that outcome will have upon our Country and upon us, its inhabitants. In the uncertainty that engulfs us, however, the business and professional women of America must share with the leaders of our Nation a serious obligation, and, as leaders of their sex, must fully realize this obligation, and live up to it.

Fighting a war in the field is one thing, but it is not everything. Almost as important as the actual fighting, is the "backing up" our forces would require from the men—and particularly from the women—that were left at home. Morale is a word we heard frequently during the World War of 1917-18. We will have need to hear much of it again, if we are unfortunate enough to be involved completely in the wars now waging all around us. The most important element in building and maintaining morale are the women of the Nation. Come what will, I have every confidence that the women of America, led and inspired