

by the business and professional women whose week we inaugurate today, will do their part sensibly and bravely, and so successfully "back up" the armed forces of our Country.

TAKOMA PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FALL BANQUET

Manor Country Club, October 7, 1940

Takoma Park

TODAY, as perhaps never before, all of us can appreciate the prophetic nature of those lines by the great poet, Tennyson, which we read and re-read in our school studies of the "Idylls of the King." The lines ran, if memory serves me well, something like this: "The old order changeth, yielding place to new, and God fulfills himself in many ways, lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

We have only to look back upon the events of the past year to realize that, in very truth, the old order has changed, and that a new order is in process of creation to replace that which is gone. Just what form that new order will take, none of us here can say, and I think few of us would venture to offer a prediction. Too many things have happened, in some cases almost overnight, that anyone of us a few short years ago would have been ready to proclaim impossible. Yet these tremendous changes have gone steadily on, and the outcome of the world struggle now underway will determine the direction and the extent of the further changes that undoubtedly are to come.

The fact is now being realized generally, however, I believe, that we citizens of richly blest America no longer are established in comfortable seats on the sidelines of the struggles now going on, as mere interested spectators. Events of the past few weeks, which found their culmination in the German-Italian-Japanese pact just announced, very definitely have brought home to all of us that we are on the brink of dire happenings. Difficult as it is to realize such a fact, as we assemble here tonight amid these peaceful and enjoyable surroundings, there is no assurance that tomorrow, or next month, may not find us actively embroiled, perhaps even fighting desperately, as is England at this very minute, to protect our own national integrity.

Under the circumstances, it is not strange, perhaps, that Government today finds itself face to face with problems quite a bit different from those that offered themselves just a few short years ago. How government will solve these problems is of the utmost consequence to every resident of our State and of our Nation. Those of us in administrative posts can only do our best to meet these changing conditions as they arise, and put our faith in a benevolent Providence that the decisions made, and the policies pursued, may lead to further peace and prosperity rather than to the unfortunate fate that has befallen so many of the countries of the world already.

One thing that the emergency facing the Nation has done, with reference to the functioning of government, was to bring about a much closer relationship between State and Federal Governments. Under ordinary circumstances such a development might not be quickly adopted by our State, for it ever has been the Maryland tradition that the people of our State could handle their