

as you do, and comprising such a representative cross section of the very best of our citizenry, you can be assured of our extreme pleasure in having you with us. I am speaking for all the people of the State when I express to you our sincere happiness at your selection of our State for this great Convention.

Not alone is this so because of your great numbers, or the position of consequence and substance which you enjoy in your respective states and communities. These are real considerations, it is true. However, in times as critical as these, perhaps the crowning quality characterizing your group is to be found in the consistent and unswerving manner in which the farm people and farm groups of our Nation have constituted the very backbone of our conservative democratic institutions.

With the world in turmoil today; with unrest in some of our industrial centers; with talk of sabotage and other subversive activities on the part of various groups throughout our Country, it is a source of consolation and congratulation to have with us in our own State such a group as yours, representative of millions of substantial, patriotic, farm people.

It is a fortunate thing for this Country that your organization and the membership it represents are available in this emergency. I proudly point to the fact that there never has been the slightest suggestion of any un-American activity among your members;—with no subversive attempt to upset the fundamentals of American life have your leaders been identified;—in no loud outcry distorting the real concept of representative government have the voices of your spokesmen been lifted. On the contrary, throughout the years there has been proof, consistent and undeniable, of the inseparable connection which links your membership with the basic doctrines of American civilization, and I venture to assert with confidence that these ties will remain strong and abiding.

You have had your problems, and they have been many and serious, but you have met them like true Americans and without recourse to outside leadership, whose function would be further to distort the picture rather than to solve the problems at hand. In whatever emergency this Country has faced, there has never been the doubt in the minds of any of our leaders as to where the farm population of our Country would be. They knew from experience that your people would be on the side of the preservation of those principles and institutions which have brought to the people of America a more complete enjoyment of life, and have made this Country of ours the envy of all the other peoples of the world.

For these reasons, I assure you that you have never found a heartier welcome anywhere than is your today in Maryland. Your sessions will be productive of much good to your membership throughout the Nation, I am sure, and thus rebound to the betterment of all our people, for the prosperity and welfare of our great farm population in indissolubly tied up with the prosperity and welfare of America.

Fortunately for our own people, time has been allowed by your Program Committee to permit you to experience and appreciate some of the many good things that our State has in store for you. I trust it will be possible for all of you to take full advantage of the opportunity to meet and know the people of our State, and that even after your business sessions are ended, it may be possible for many of you to remain with us for a little while and to explore more fully the cultural and scenic advantages with which a beneficent