

nature and an enterprising spirit have endowed the Sovereign State of Maryland.

In the name of the people of Maryland, I repeat, I consider it a high privilege as Governor of the State to welcome each and every one of you into our midst. Please be assured of a friendliness and whole-hearted welcome that is based fundamentally upon the knowledge that your organization represents to us and to everyone, all that is sound and desirable in the American way of living.

I salute you cordially, and express the wish that you may carry away from our State a portion of the friendly and brotherly feeling which the people of this State have for you at this moment.

FARM BUREAU PAGEANT

War Memorial, December 10, 1940

Baltimore

IT was a happy thought of your very efficient Program Committee to include in the activities of this National Convention a pageant such as we are privileged to witness here this afternoon. True Americans ever find it an inspiration to be reminded of the significance of the flag that waves so gloriously above our Country and all its outposts.

Today, because of the threat to our Nation and its flag from alien ideologies, is it particularly fitting that we keep alive in our own minds, and before every resident of this great Country of ours, the deep meaning of the Stars and Stripes, and the American principles for which they stand.

Here in Maryland we have always had a particular reverence for the National Emblem. Our State, as you know, was the seventh star in the flag in time sequence, but we like to rank it first in true significance. The founders of our Nation, so history tells us, decided to place the stars in our flag because they felt that stars would be a symbol to all mankind, signaling to the world the birth of the first Nation on earth dedicated to personal and spiritual liberty.

To accept this meaning for the stars in our flags is to approve Maryland's right to be the first star of all, for was it not our own State of Maryland that first gave the world the ideals of personal liberty and complete toleration 161 years before the adoption of our National Emblem?

As we view this patriotic pageant, and as we glance aloft and thrill to the sight of the Star Spangled Banner flying in the breeze, let us pledge ourselves anew ever to remember its significance. Merely to contrast life here in America, under the democratic institutions for which our flag stands, with the dictator-ruled governmental systems of foreign countries, should make us so thankful that we are Americans, living under the Stars and Stripes, that our every thought and action would be directed towards the protection and preservation of the rights and liberties we now enjoy.

Just as we here in Maryland proudly recall that it was our State that first gave to the world the principles of true individual freedom, so can every American take pride in the fact that it was our Country that opened its gates