

No need to talk to a group of experienced fire-fighters about fighting fire. I will say to you, though, that there's no better way to fight irreligion than—with religion, lived honestly, and humbly, and steadfastly; there's no better way to fight and thwart subversive teachings, than to spread constantly an appreciation of and love for those glorious principles of freedom and individual liberty for which our forefathers worked and died, and in defense of which every thinking American again will be ready, should the call come to surrender everything, even life itself, before yielding. For those who would deprive us of them, would thereby enslave us, mentally and physically, to that unreasoning form of government which they have come to venerate as "The State."

Truly, these are troubled times, times that call for, and will demand the best that is in us if we are to come out of them successfully, still preserving and cherishing the liberties and privileges we now enjoy. In such times it is a fortunate thing, indeed, for our Nation that there are, through the length and breadth of our Country, organizations like yours, around whom the people of our Country can rally, upon whom they may depend, from whom they can draw the inspiration and the will-to-do that will be so essential in any crisis that may ensue.

Thank God, too, as we prepare to stand shoulder to shoulder against any assaults that may come that the seed of personal and religious freedom, of complete freedom, of complete toleration, first planted on the shores of St. Mary's County in Maryland on Annunciation Day three hundred and seven years ago, still flourishes. Nurtured and cherished by men such as you, may it be brought to even greater fruition, so that every true American in this land may be renewed in his devotion to the one Country in the world that has been Freedom's rallying ground. In this rededication to the principles of complete freedom, in this rebirth of religious appreciation, we can find new strength for any travail that may come.

I close with congratulation and commendation to you. Rather I should congratulate the City and State which is fortunate in having you. As men, virile, red-blooded American citizens, your quality and courage stamp you as thoroughbreds. This reminds me of the couplet of the little poem, which should give you promise of a better day hereafter. It simply states:

"We come in this world all naked and bare,
We go through this world 'mid sorrow and care,
We die—we go to God knows only where,
But if you're a thoroughbred here, you're a thoroughbred there."