

for us at Valley Forge, at Gettysburg, at Montfaucon, that we of this generation, and of all generations to come, will carry on the fight they waged so gloriously, will never yield a fraction of the heritage won for us by their valor.

In the light of the threats to our security today, Memorial Day finds us steeped in thought, leaves us with troubled emotions. The will for peace is dominant as ever in the hearts of American men and women. But no longer can we afford to be complacent; no more can we be cynical about preparing for war while declaring a will for peace. The irony of that paradox is already too clear, now that we have seen ruthless attacks become the order of the day. Now we know that a *will* for peace is not enough.

Ten years ago—five years ago—even perhaps two years ago, it was possible to entertain the conviction that the United States had seen its last World War, at least within our lifetime. No longer, we believed, was it necessary to make much of an issue of peace. It was already with us, everyone took it for granted, we all believed it was here to stay. Those public men who expressed doubts upon the subject ran the risk of being classed as sensationalists. We were complacent in our own security. We came to the cemeteries and to the monuments on Memorial Day, and we laid down our wreaths and went away saying to ourselves: "Thank Heaven, it will never happen again."

Just a few evenings ago, however, millions of anxious Americans listened tensely as the President of the United States, acting in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of our military and naval forces, laid down the policy which he and his advisers had decided must be followed if the security of America is to be preserved.

Here was no militaristic ranting, but rather a dignified expression of the well-reasoned conviction that only by the exercise of the utmost vigilance could America escape the tragic fate that had engulfed so many nations of the world.

No longer can we sit in false security, trusting to the natural defense of distance to protect us. Our old-time ideas about war have been out-moded, and with them ancient ideas of isolation and defense must be discarded.

Today, our Commander-in-Chief warns that not only must we be alert to repel the enemy when he is actually amongst us, but our defense patrols must range far and wide to detect attack and to intercept it before the enemy strikes. For this purpose, our people must realize every resource of our Country, of our man power, of industry, of labor, must be directed to the common goal—the goal of thorough and immediate preparedness. No one can truly call himself American, no one deserves to continue in the enjoyment of his American rights and privileges, if he fails to heed and to comply whole-heartedly with that clear-cut rallying cry.

In the presence today of our hero-dead, we are reminded of the tremendous debt we owe them. To discharge that debt one must be ready to discharge to the fullest the responsibility he owes his Country in the way of service. The most gratifying tribute our dead could exact from us today is the renewal of their democratic principles, of our spirit of fealty to our Country and to them. Today at their resting place; on this, their day of tribute, we can do no less