

tremendously challenging and fascinating one. Certain it is, at any rate, that with the splendid educational attainments that are yours as the result of your years here at National Park College, you are equipped to assume fully the responsibilities that will be laid upon you. Further, you have the heartening satisfaction of knowing that you will be afforded the opportunity to do your full share in whatsoever may be required to preserve our national security and dignity.

Coming, as you do, from the majority of states of the Union, you present a composite picture of young womanhood of America. Seeing you here, knowing the advantages that have been yours, it is obvious that America is to be congratulated upon having available many thousands of capable, thoughtful young women like yourselves. On behalf of the State of Maryland and as Chief Executive of one of the Sovereign Forty-eight States, I cordially welcome you to the field of national effort and, indeed, charge you to devote yourselves and your capacities to the fullest in the service of your Nation and its people. For it must be remembered that as you have been specially favored in the way of culture and education, you will be specially charged with corresponding responsibility of leadership.

The America that is ours today is the grandest conception of government ever known. It was built by toil and sacrifice, but the privileges and freedom thus guaranteed, are worth all of the toil and sacrifice that has been entailed, or that ever could be required in their defense.

There are millions of young women throughout the world today who would give much, sacrifice much, to have your chance at the advantages that America affords. These young people, ambitious like yourselves, have seen their countries overrun by devastating hordes, and now find themselves not only deprived of the educational opportunities, but also facing a future in which despair replaces ambition, and in which there is little of encouragement.

Going forth from a system of education that has given so much to everyone of you, it is seriously to be hoped that you take with you a deep and thorough appreciation of what it means to be an American, and of how necessary it is that our American system of democratic government be preserved and transmitted to those to come after us. Democracy, as we know it here in America, is a sacred trust placed in our hands, not to do with as we will, not to be abridged or destroy. It is our sacred responsibility to preserve and strengthen it as far as lies within our power, so that new generations coming along may enjoy the same freedom, the same incentive to advancement that were ours.

So much talk about national affairs, and defense, and about your responsibilities, may seem a little strange to you young graduates, to whom, perhaps, Commencement might seem rather a time for enjoyment and relaxation.

Even amidst the pleasant circumstances attending these Graduation Exercises today, we cannot, we dare not, forget, one fact. That is, that if we are to insure for graduates of the future, the same educational advantages, the same free privileges that have been yours, we must be alert today as were the Minute Men at Lexington, to detect and repel the onslaughts that all of us must realize may be launched against our shores at any time.