

and to grow up under the American form of free government. From earliest childhood their actions have been absolutely unhampered by government or group dictation. Everyone lives where he wants, speaks and reads what he pleases, goes wherever he will, and worships God in his own right, openly. The American of today chooses his own sphere of education, determines for himself what lines his life will take in the years to come. His government is built on the principles of individual freedom and of equal rights for all. By a system of free elections, the people of America have preserved these rights and handed them down to their successors.

In America, government has been no group set apart, above and beyond the reach of the governed. Rather it has been truly government for the people and by the people. In every trying period of the Country's progress its people have been absolutely free to voice opinions, and to help shape national policies in accordance with what they considered to be their best interests.

How differently government is ordered today throughout a great part of the world. In Germany, in Italy, in Japan and Russia we see forms of government not based upon recognition of individual rights. In these lands absolute control of government's functions is concentrated in the hands of one man or a small group, whose only claim to such power is the force they had mustered to seize it, whose only purpose is to use that power for their own misguided ends.

How could normal human beings perpetrate the dastardly acts that have been committed by those all-powerful rulers? If the invasion and destruction of the governments and established way of life of Poland, Norway, Czecho-Slovakia, Belgium, Holland and other conquered countries were viewed in their proper concept, no human being could ever undertake them.

The invaders have justified themselves, but considering the governments of these conquered lands as man-made, and thus to be destroyed at will. Certainly they have not given consideration to the fact that the invasions constituted a directed breach of the individual rights of each of the millions of persons so vitally affected.

We have read and heard many times the expression, "That can't happen here." Possibly not, but the people of France and many of the other now fallen countries once felt a similar security. Brought up as we have been in the fullest enjoyment of every individual right, could we conceive of any different type of life? Could the people of America, accustomed as they are to going and coming and doing as they please, ever really visualize what it would mean to live under such conditions that now obtain in occupied France, or in Belgium?

Ostend, for instance, was once a great city. Today, its citizens must obtain written permission from their German officials if they wish to go four miles beyond the limits of the city. Their every private and group action is scrutinized and restricted, and their wealth has been confiscated to the extent that in many cases now they lack even the bare necessities of life.

After years of living on a scale that no other people in the world have