

that you will be derelict in your duty if you do not give the Nation the full benefit of the exceptional abilities and capacities that are yours.

As you dwell on the traditions that glorify the name of Georgetown, as you realize the splendid and heroic deeds of its men of the past, remember that many of those who studied in the very halls where you have spent the last four years, have given their effort, yes, their lives, to preserve for you the opportunities of which you have availed yourselves.

These men were so imbued with ideals that they were willing to give and did give their all in their defense. If America is to be preserved as a Nation, as the one outstanding example of Democracy that has stood as an inspiration to oppressed peoples the world over, you must "face up" to your obligations, must be resolved to accept the burden of your responsibility and to bear it willingly.

Millions of young men in ravished Poland, in the Baltic States, in the Low Countries, in occupied France, would give years of their lives, would pledge themselves to undying effort, if they might enjoy your advantages, if they might face a future as hopeful as yours.

To them America is the land of opportunity, as it was to our forefathers in days of old. As long as there is hope that they, too, some day may taste the saving cup of American liberty, life still holds something worthwhile for them, hopeless though their present condition may otherwise be.

While America's Democratic institutions endure, hope will live on among the down-trodden nations of the earth. While the beacon of American liberty still blazes in the sky, the eyes of all the conquered people of the world will catch its gleam and take new heart.

There is not sufficient room in all this wide universe for two conceptions of government so completely adverse as Democracy and Totalitarianism. They cannot exist side by side because the one denies the other. Democracy is the antithesis of an ideology that denies the dignity of man.

No dictator-ruled government could expand as its master would desire, if its coerced subjects had before them the vision of a sovereign state, where men were equal and free to live unfettered by decrees or restrictions, were privileged to enjoy to the fullest their God-given rights.

Unless you take away with you from Georgetown's hallowed halls the true appreciation of Democracy, American style; unless you value Democracy so thoroughly that you will undergo any sacrifice rather than to yield it, the sons of Georgetown who gave their lives in previous defense of this form of government, may have made their sacrifice in vain.

The challenge to you is that you carry aloft the ideals and practices, the principles to which you have been exposed. Yes, it may be an unfriendly and cheerless horizon that is now faced. Yes, there are appalling happenings around and about you. But courage is not a temporal measure. It was in young Americans in years gone by; it is in their successors of 1941. For worlds and great rewards are not won by chance happenings or even by golden op-