

The law represents principles wrought by sound reasoning and by patient experience in the service of human interest. Our jurisprudence, made up of the judicial principles of the English and the American people, has its foundation in principles, which stand for personal freedom, equal justice and inflexible right. These principles are the source and the protection of the only enduring form of human liberty. That is the liberty which is restrained by law, which is itself the offspring of liberty.

And this entire structure is threatened with annihilation by the barbaric rulers in Europe today. The forces, unloosed with such velocity, and the devastations already wrought and further threatened by these despotic Dictators, have as their ultimate goal the overthrow of everything upon which rests ordered society under a Constitutional form of Government.

But this Nation, of free men, which has enjoyed the privileges of liberty so long as to appreciate them fully has no intention of surrendering any such rights. Since the outbreak of hostilities two years ago, the National Government and State Governments have initiated plans for necessary preparedness to withstand any aggression. But as the danger has increased in intensity, defense preparations have been stepped up immeasurably.

Today it is an acknowledged fact that America is not lacking in principles and policies. At the same time, it is imperative that the Country have the active support of every loyal citizen. It is because the threat is directed to all that the lawyer holds dear, that his abilities and resourcefulness are needed in this hour of emergency.

Happily, the program has been carefully charted to present a solid fronting of National and State Governments. At the same time, respective duties undertaken by each have indicated the continuation of Federal and State sovereignties.

The Federal Government is fulfilling its appointed duty of making its preparation on a national scale. But, at the urgent request of Washington, the States have formed Councils of Defense with far-reaching aims for the utilization of industrial, agricultural and human resources.

In this "all-out" national undertaking, no group can be more helpful than the legal profession. The disturbed and upset state of affairs will demand the leadership of clear thinking men in order that dissension shall not disrupt our forces. Assistance has been needed, and will be needed, for those who are called into the armed service, assistance both to the men themselves and to their families left behind.

In this connection, I am happy to acknowledge the assistance of the Maryland Bar in connection with the operation of the Selective Service System. Approximately eleven hundred and fifty lawyers in our State are actively participating in the administration of Selective Service. All this, of course, is on a purely voluntary basis. Under the terms of the Federal Act, the Governors of the respective States of the Union were assigned the task of providing the machinery for the operation of the law. It was a fortunate thing for me to have the judges and lawyers of the State to whom to turn.

The Judges selected attorneys to act on Advisory Boards for registrants.