

I had the privilege of appointing others on Local Boards, Appeal Boards, and as Appeal Agents. Without regard to affiliation, or any other ulterior consideration, the lawyers responded patriotically. The fact that only last week the National Administrator commended the operation of Selective Service in Maryland is an indication of the efficient way in which the lawyers have performed their duties.

In the abrupt termination of their civil life, faced by so many of our male citizens, the fact that they can have such expert and trustworthy assistance in the handling of the many legal problems involved is a contribution to the morale of these men. And morale, as you know, was in the last war, and will be in any emergency, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of all the weapons possessed by our Army and Navy.

While all of these and many other services are being rendered freely and gladly by members of the Bar to promote the National Defense, in my judgment the Bar has today a higher, if less tangible, duty to its Country and to the preservation of true constitutional principles.

Everyone, by our very membership in the fraternity of the Law, has the same obligation put upon us. Occasionally the law is tested so publicly and so dramatically that pages of history are written. But much more often the very same testing takes place without fanfare and commotion. Not a day passes but lawyers and judges and jurymen re-enact the scene of government being carried out by law. Not a night falls but some humble citizen has had his rights weighed and adjusted by some branch of our great Judiciary System.

Is that so commonplace a statement? If so we have good reason to be proud and pleased. In more than half the world today, such a statement would not be commonplace and certainly not be true. On what other continents, in what other hemisphere are human rights guaranteed and upheld by the State? Name the nations, if you can, which are governed by Law and not by men. How much responsibility, therefore, falls upon us of the legal profession? No instance is so small, no case is so insignificant that it does not form part of the substantial whole. There is no freedom where there is no justice. There is no Democracy where Law ceases to function in its joint capacity—that of upholding the State and of standing eternal watch over the rights of the people.

How different in countries where force has usurped the place of right, where justice is being forced to give way to the all-powerful wills of the ruling groups. In Germany, for instance, and undoubtedly in every one of the countries that have been over-run, one of the very first moves made by Hitler to make secure his domination, was to take command of the courts and of the Bar. In Germany, as far back as 1936, the flow of students into the law universities was regulated and later admission to the Bar was made practically impossible. During the whole year of 1936, we are informed, only sixteen lawyers were admitted to the profession in Berlin. Jewish lawyers, with few exceptions, were ousted, simply because of their race.

Such lawyers who are now permitted to practice, moreover, find conditions entirely changed from those of two years ago. Where once a lawyer had to be familiar with the interpretation of the highest German Court, nowadays