

It undoubtedly is a matter of great pride to you, and well it may be, that in no un-American activity have your members ever been engaged; with no subversive attempt to overthrow the fundamentals of American Government have any of your leaders ever been identified; in no loud outcry distorting the real concept of representative government have the voices of your spokesmen ever been lifted. Here, in truth, is proof of the inseparable connection which ranks your Order with the basic doctrines of American civilization, and I venture to assert with confidence that these firm ties will remain strong and abiding.

Happily, and to the everlasting good of your Country and its citizens, you have adhered to the theory that the best way to have true fraternity among men is to practice it yourselves. As exemplars of this policy, you have achieved success in the eyes of an approving citizenry.

Because of your emphasis upon the brotherhood of man, you continually put to shame those who would divide man against man, nation against nation. You have given indisputable evidence that there are basic traits and characteristics common to all, which are to be found in your fellowmen from every part of the world, if only one takes the trouble to look for such traits and qualities. In the membership of your national organization, residing within this State, we are proud to acknowledge and proclaim outstanding and wholehearted adherence to lofty ideals which have been evidenced in their lives, individually and collectively.

I said before that our Nation is fortunate in having at any time, organizations like yours. Doubly fortunate are we as Americans to have in this time of crisis, when above all else national unity is the first requisite, an organization which makes and always has made unity one of its first objectives.

Merely to be here this evening and to have this session in absolute freedom and with never a worry as to immediate attack from a hostile force, is in itself striking evidence of what it means to be an American, and, further, of how necessary it is that our American rights and freedom be preserved.

To do this we are embarked, as you know, upon a national policy that represents the best thought of our duly elected leaders in Washington. As such, it is a policy that merits the unstinted backing of every American.

We are faced, as a Nation, with momentous problems and with the undoubted necessity of preparing ourselves adequately to defend our land and our free institutions against any threats. To accomplish this, and let me say this just as forcibly as it is within my power, we must have *unity of mind and heart, and purpose*, among all our citizens, such a unity as unfortunately is not apparent now in many sections of our land.

Our Nation must function as a unit. Our strength is to be measured and judged by the solidarity of the central life-line. Sporadic energy and isolated examples of brilliancy are not enough. Let us be specific. We know from past records that the American soldier is brave, that our military strategists have ranked with the greatest of all times.

To this very day the exploits and maneuvers of Stonewall Jackson are used in textbooks for training officers all over the world. The indomitability