

France were just as secure in their minds as are the people of America today. If they could speak to us today from their hearts, I know that they would cry to the people of America in a loud voice, *to prepare, to unite, to be ready at any and every cost*, to repel the ravaging hordes that today are overrunning Europe as did the bandit hordes of centuries ago.

There is no message more important to the people of America today than the message of their danger from the totalitarian dictators, who have progressed so tremendously towards their goal of world domination. The appalling thing is that after all that has happened in the past few years, after the butchery of Poland and of Czechoslovakia, after the utter destruction of the freedom of every man, woman, and child in the fifteen countries that Hitler has seen fit to attack and subjugate, there are today throughout the length and breadth of our Country, and even in high places in Washington, people who still refuse to see or at least to acknowledge publicly, any threat from Hitler.

Despite the incontestable evidences given by the conquest-mad leader, Hitler, of his intention to enslave the whole world under the heel of his Nordic super-race, these dissenters still tell us that we have no interest in Europe's affairs, and that even though Hitler may crush all of Continental Europe and ultimately make good his threat against freedom, there still can be no danger in such a situation for us.

It is impossible ever to dismiss from one's mind anxiety over events that are happening everywhere today to affect the interests and possibly the security of the people of our Country. It is possible, however, on an occasion like this to feel some reassurance, and I can assure you that it is a deep pleasure to come before the members of such an organization as yours, whose well-defined aims and objectives are directly contrary to the objectives of hate and destruction proclaimed by the dictators.

The accomplishments and ideals of your order give heartening assurance that brute force and might are not the only factors in the life of mankind today. It would be a happy thing, indeed, for the world if the truth of the principles which your Order exemplifies, could be impressed once more upon all of the people of the world.

As Governor of Maryland, it is a privilege for me to be here today on this Fifteenth Annual Pilgrimage in order that I might convey to you from the people of our State their deep and heartfelt appreciation for what you have done, not alone for the advancement of our citizenship, but more particularly for your worthy achievements in the humanitarian field.

I have said before, but it certainly bears repetition, that this Country is fortunate to the extreme to have in existence your organization of patriotic, public-spirited, charity-minded citizens. The fact that you are a member of such an organization, dedicated to the advancement of American ideals, is proof, indeed, of your devotion to those principles which have made America truly a land of free men and women, a land where oppression can never gain a foothold.

It is a known fact that you could not continue as active members in such an organization if you were not living up to the practice of loyal sons of the Nation to whose preservation your organization is committed.