

Amidst all of the talk of subversive activities and of those who advocate "peace at any price," who apparently would be willing to risk some of our God-given liberties, it should be—and undoubtedly is—a source of deep gratification to you that there has never been the slightest suggestion to the effect that there was disloyalty on the part of any of the members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Bunds and groups of various unworthy types have been exposed time and time again, but nowhere has there been a suggestion that any of the leaders of your Order have been identified in the slightest degree with attempts to overthrow the fundamentals of American Government.

On the contrary, there is proof on all sides of the inseparable connection between your Order and the basic doctrine of American civilization. Truly, if all of our citizens were imbued with the principles laid down in your ritual, there would never be any talk of dissension, disunity or lack of morale. The leaders of our Nation could then go forward in full confidence of the supreme and unyielding backing of every one of our American citizens.

There is no more effective precept than good example, and be it recorded to the everlasting credit of your Order, and to the continuing good of your Country and its citizens, that your members have given an example of true fraternity among men. You have shown the way towards this fraternity by practicing it yourselves. In so doing, and in thus emphasizing the brotherhood of man, you have given a shining example and have put to shame those who would divide man against man, nation against nation, and creed against creed. In the success that has crowned your efforts there is evidence that can not be disputed, showing that the basic traits of decency and honor exist in all men and can be found in men everywhere if only one takes the trouble to seek them.

With influences at work seeking to divide our citizens and to prevent the solid backing of the policies of our duly elected officials, it is a fortunate thing for America to have well-organized fraternal bodies like yours continually preaching and practicing the ideal of unity. For unity is the one thing above all else that is absolutely necessary in America today. We must have that unity of mind and will and purpose that will enable us to stand shoulder to shoulder against any foe; that will inspire the men and women in our factories and on the farms to give the utmost of their skill and labor, that America may be supplied with those implements of war and with all the other supplies that will be necessary to place us on a secure defense footing.

One of the greatest obstacles America must overcome in its search for unity is the refusal or the inability of many of our people to face the facts as they exist, and to admit that there is reason for anxiety about the future safety of this land. Nothing ever can be gained, and it is only the self-deluded person who would try to comfort himself, by refusing to face facts as they are. What these facts are anyone can gather for himself unless he resolutely closes his mind to their meaning.

Only yesterday, the headlines proclaimed a growing tension in the Pacific. The press of recent weeks has told of the increasing pressure being put forth by our Navy to keep the seas open for American-borne commerce. All of this adds up to the inescapable fact that America is close to war, far too close for