

NAVY DAY
EMERSON HOTEL

October 27, 1941
Baltimore

A MID all the uncertainty that prevails in the world today, one clear, certain fact stands forth, to provide security of mind and promise of protection to the people of America, no matter where they may reside.

On this Navy Day of 1941, possibly the one most significant fact in the whole wide world is the United States Navy. Not only is this so because our Navy is at least the equal, and probably the superior, of any other naval fighting force, but it has had a tremendous influence upon the trend of world affairs during the fateful months through which we recently have passed.

The United States Navy has been a beacon of hope to the embattled people of Britain; it has hindered as perhaps no other single factor has been able to do, the plans of Nazi Germany to strangle Great Britain by cutting off her commerce; and with its powerful air arm, the United States Navy has been the one deterring influence in the Far East that has kept Japan out of the sphere of active belligerency, and that today is causing even the most bellicose of Japanese leaders to restrain themselves.

The people of America, of all the Americas, may well be thankful for, and proud of, the United States Navy. And, indeed they are. By the same token, the members of the Navy League, and particularly those among you gathered here this evening who have labored so continuously during the past twenty years to awaken and sustain interest in the improvement of our Navy among the people of our Country, may well feel gratified to know that these efforts undoubtedly played their part in providing for us today a Navy that is so definitely our chief hope for continued national security, a Navy that, when developed to its full projected strength, will make the United States dominant upon the seas as no other nation in the world ever has been.