

production of the tremendous amounts of war material necessary to equip a modern army, there is very special need of women because of the increasing numbers of precision instruments that must be constructed for our airplanes and other types of mechanical equipment.

As was demonstrated so clearly in the last war, and in the development of precision instruments since that time, women have a definite knack for handling the delicate parts involved, and in many instances are more satisfactory in such work than men.

All of this, of course, will be in addition, in any greater emergency that may arise, to the time-honored function of women in warfare. That function has always been to maintain at home the same high morale that is so necessary to the men under arms. This function, of course, American women will fulfill as nobly as they have always done.

Right now you could well address yourselves to the task of convincing the women of Maryland that there is urgent need for the present intensive training of their husbands, sons and sweethearts, and that there may even be a dire necessity for more millions of well-trained men before many months have passed. The women of our State can do a morale-building job for these trainees that in the final analysis might well mean the difference between defeat and victory for American Democracy.

What do you suppose the women of prostrate France, of intrepid Belgium, of ravaged Poland would give, to have the opportunity that is yours at this moment? For them, however, the day of opportunity is past. Over them hangs the cloud of a future bereft of liberty and devoid of hope!

For us, thank God, that opportunity still remains! For us, there still is time, if we use it to advantage, to arm ourselves adequately against the mighty hordes that have rolled, like the plague of old, across so many of the countries of Continental Europe.

And use this time we must, to fullest advantage, or we, too, may awaken on some sad tomorrow to find ourselves no longer free, but vassals of a tyrant master. We must *work* to produce the needed arms and materials; we must train our people to be ready for service in any eventuality that may ensue, and we must steel our hearts and our wills to endure *anything, everything* rather than yield even one tiny particle of those freedoms won for us by the blood and the toil of our gallant forefathers.