

MOUNT SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MARYLAND CHAPTER

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Baltimore

HOW many of us, as we attended our history lectures in college, or burned the midnight oil cramming for history examinations, ever figured that we would actually see history in the making, even see the world remade almost in its entirety?

How many people throughout our Country today, I wonder, ever pause to realize that they are at this moment seeing momentous happenings such as possibly the world before has never known. The newspapers are the history books, the radio is the classroom, the whole wide world is a vast stage upon which the various phases of this world reconstruction is being presented.

It is necessary to go beyond the front pages of the newspapers, however, to get a complete picture of what is happening both within and without our Country, if we are to keep track accurately of developments, significant in themselves, but more so because of their indication of coming trends and activities. For instance, over the weekend, dispatches from New York report that the hotels and "night spots" are completely sold out for the New Year's celebrations. In the same paper, we read that the chiefs of the Office of Production Management, Mr. Knudson and Mr. Hillman, urged that defense plants throughout the Country keep going on New Year's Day to speed collapse of the Axis by millions of man-hours. And in the same editions, we read that the "closed shop" is still an issue, and that the possibility of work stoppage looms, despite industry-labor points of agreements.

Further, as men trained for leadership in religious and world affairs, you must have been impressed with the preparations being made throughout our Country and in England for national days of prayer on Thursday, New Year's Day, and the Vatican City report that Pope Pius XII will be the keystone of an international day of prayer for peace, on Ascension Thursday, May 14th.

While none of these news dispatches overshadow the military news for front page prominence, they may be considered as approaching in significance, the fact that the Japs were landing reinforcements on Luzon Island, or that the German rout in Russia was continuing unabated.

Take the first news items mentioned, for instance, and couple the fact of the New Year's Eve sellouts with the plea for industrial activity on New Year's day. How much more soul-satisfying it would have been if the reports had been reversed—if industry had announced that a complete accord had been reached for 100% production on New Year's Day, and if the gaiety end of the holiday had been affected by the stern realization that this Country was at war and battling for its very existence. Then, indeed, we would have real cause for hope and confidence.