

That the National Guard furnishes such a framework is apparent to everyone at all familiar with what happened when this country went into the World War in 1917. The Guard made available to the Government troops already well trained, officers by the thousands ready to step into newly established outfits and there train thousands upon thousands of new soldiers. And that the Guard outfits compared most favorably with the Regular was proved time and again, and is now written indelibly in this Country's record of that war.

Of almost equal importance in the way of preparedness, however, is the necessity of impressing our people, and the people of all the States, that they must be vigilant to detect, and reject, the insidious propaganda that is being spread about by those alien groups who reject the aims of Democracy, and who would make the free people of America just as subservient to the State, as are the people of the foreign states, ruled by dictators.

Such dangers as this are more difficult to detect, and hence more difficult to defeat, than any military onslaughts could ever be. They are difficult to detect because they can be so cleverly disguised, so that many times even the best-intentioned may be deceived. Wherever people are determined, however, that come what may they will stand as a unit against any invasion of their personal rights, there is little danger that their Democratic government can be overthrown.

America has been the envy, and the despair, of governments the world over for more than 150 years. At the outset, the nations of Europe freely predicted that the democratic form of government, as instituted here, could not survive. Lately, particularly since the depression of the early thirties, such predictions, inspired by desire rather than fact, have been freely spread about, again.

However, America is still functioning, and will continue to function just as long as you, its citizens, are on your guard, and are willing to do whatever is necessary to protect our form of government. So, as we leave here today, let us take a new resolve that there are JUST TWO really important things with which to concern ourselves today, amidst all the turmoil prevalent in the world—we must be prepared so fully that we can defend our Country against unjust aggression; and we must be alert to drive out from our midst the purveyors of Anti-American doctrines. As long as we are on the alert in these directions, America will continue to be the "land of the free" and American institutions will be safe. In this determination our citizens stand as one hoping for the day when International peace and good will may reign throughout the world.

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

June 3, 1939

College Park

**A**S an alumnus of this University, also as Governor of the State, I derive genuine satisfaction from participation in these commencement exercises. The graduation of such a large number represents another step in the