

There is no mystery, no racial formula in Americanism. It stands for those fundamental principles which our Declaration calls self-evident truths. It states the conviction that all men are essentially equal in the eyes of the Creator. It decries any belief that any one race should rule all other races, should enslave the rest of the world.

It is the American conviction that human beings are endowed with a soul that gives them a worth and value immeasurably beyond all other creatures; that human beings by their very nature have certain rights, and that these rights come from the Creator Himself.

We do *not* believe that men are simply tools and machines, to perform automatically the tasks imposed upon them by ruthless, selfish masters and overlords. It is the American dogma that a Government is a necessary instrument by which to protect man's God-given privileges, by which to safeguard to each individual his rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Nowhere in the American scheme of things is there justification for tyranny to enforce its inhuman edicts by means of concentration camps and the Gestapo; through Quislings and Lavals.

America was founded on the premise that Government exists solely for the welfare of all its citizens, and that these citizens are the final judges as to whether or not Government is carrying out this function. The theory that people exist only for the benefit of the State is not, and never will be, acceptable. These have been America's convictions for generations. Despite all the threats that may come, such a sight as witnessed here today offers assurance that these convictions will continue to be America's for generations to come.

Today's demonstration, and countless other similar expressions of the National determination to remain free, completely refute the one thesis upon which, possibly more than all else, our Axis foes relied for victory.

They dared to attack us, striking like a thief in the night, because they believed, mistakenly, that a Democracy like ours could not organize itself for total war. Mislead by the discussions that had marked our National deliberations up to Pearl Harbor, they thought they sensed a divided people, which never could be completely unified even to save itself. They were mistaken, tragically mistaken, thank Heaven. Never has America been more united than at the present moment. Never have the millions of American citizens valued more sincerely, or been more ready to defend, their American institutions, than they are today.

This evidence of your County's readiness for defense, is of extreme importance, moreover, in that it not only gives definite expression to our will to survive, but it likewise brings home definitely to all the people of Washington County the meaning of events in the world today as they affect our own State.

You have seen the various phases of Civilian Defense represented, a true cross-section of the 137,900 residents of Maryland who have enrolled for such services. You have seen well-trained units of the Maryland State Guard, not only from your own County but from other counties of Western Maryland and from Montgomery and Prince George's. The very fact that it was deemed neces-