

and the intuitive judgment of women workers bid fair to win them a permanent place in the field of manufacture.

The subject of your round table discussion, post-war planning, was one that holds the attention of every thoughtful person today, and particularly commends itself to the consideration of legislators and persons in public office. From all that has been said beforehand about the increasing sphere of women's activities, it cannot well be doubted but that the end of this emergency through which we now are passing, will find a greatly changed balance between women and men, not only in industry but in Government and in every field. Thus, woman's part in the post-war reconstruction will be a vital one. By the same token, all the judgment and the planning skill that the women of America can muster will be needed and needed badly if we are to stave off upsetting conditions that, unchecked, might well destroy the free institutions that we today are fighting so vigorously to defend.

As we see our Government, therefore, rapidly approaching the zenith of all-out effort that is needed to win this war; as we read with absorbing interest of the battles to save Australia from invasion, and thus to protect our own outpost of Hawaii against ominous Japanese threats; as we read of the arrival of American troops in far-away Egypt and Australia, in Iceland and in England, in Newfoundland and in the Caribbean, we may well be reminded of the grave utterances of Premier Curtin of Australia, when his homeland seemed to be in dire danger of Japanese attack.

"When our men are giving so gloriously of their efforts and their lives to protect us," Premier Curtin said, "can we do less here at home than to throw ourselves wholeheartedly into every phase of the war effort, so that we, too, may to the fullest do our part to protect our native land."

The very seriousness with which the delegates to your Convention have addressed themselves to the discussions of your Convention augurs well for the manner in which your group and, indeed, all the women of America, will answer the question of war effort participation. As you go, therefore, from this ancient City of Annapolis, with its multitude of historic memories, bear in mind that there is in America a wealth of cultural and spiritual possessions and privileges that merit the last ounce of our effort in their defense.

As in no other war that has ever been waged, is there opportunity and need for the women of America today to join in the war effort. Particularly does this responsibility devolve upon women like yourselves, who, having been selected by the people as representatives in the law-making bodies of our Nation, have been entrusted with the duty of leadership. Yours is not only the duty to take part in all our Country is attempting to do, but you must assume leadership; you must be the inspiration to the women of your community, so that they may follow your leadership and inspiration to the best of their ability. In every community in this land there is room, not only for Civilian Defense workers, but for leaders in the very necessary field of war bonds and stamps, in Red Cross activities, and in all the morale-building activities that an all-inclusive war like this demands.