

ALLEGANY COUNTY DEFENSE DEMONSTRATION

June 28, 1942

Cumberland

As we are gathered here this afternoon, or as we go about our daily life in our respective fields, there is one thought that must outweigh all other in the mind of every American citizen. We must WIN THIS WAR in which we are engaged. We MUST win it otherwise nothing else that we can do, no other accomplishments that can be achieved, will have any lasting value.

This afternoon, in the very impressive ceremonies that have been taking place, this one thought has been uppermost in our minds. And rightly so. Moreover, it must continue to occupy the foremost place in every thought, in every plan made by us as a Nation and as a people. No repetition could ever dull the the tremendously important fact that the fate of America, of all the world, hangs in balance today—that unless America and the nations allied with her in the defense of Democracy can win through to final, complete Victory, we must be ready to accept such slavery and degradation as no unstanding American citizen could ever bear to face.

The more quickly Victory can be achieved, the less costly it will be in lives and in the possessions of our people. However, no matter how long it may take, no matter what the eventual cost may be in blood and toil, in sacrifice and in money, the cost will be eternally justified if, as a people, we are able to retain those priceless freedoms which have been America's heritage.

Within the past few days there was held in North Carolina, possibly the most unusual meeting of State and Federal officials ever staged. Most of the Governors of the forty-eight states were in attendance, with the heads of the important war agencies of the United States Government, and the Ambassadors from the United Nations.

There, too, the almost universal subject discussed was the winning of the war, and the best methods by which the states could further the efforts of the National Government in his direcion.

Reaffirmed there was a pledge of loyalty by all the states which, through their Chief Executives, placed at the disposal of our Commander-in-Chief, the President, their every resource. Important steps already have been taken by our State in this regards.

Acknowledgement was expressed by the National war leaders of the effective manner in which the states have handled for the government such involved matters as Selective Service Registration and Administration of Rationing, and the like. Admiration was expressed freely, too, at the way in which the American people, though unversed in the ways of war, have accepted and performed the arduous duties involved in National activities of such tremendous scope.