

It is a fortunate thing for this Country that your organization and similar associations of patriotic men exist. Your very membership in the organization proves your devotion to American ideals and principles, otherwise, you would not have been admitted to membership. Your continuation as active members demonstrates that you are "carrying on" the practices of loyal sons of the Nation, to the perpetuation of which your organization is committed.

I proudly point to the fact that in no un-American activity have your members ever been engaged; with no subversive attempt to discard the fundamentals of American life have your leaders been identified; in no loud outcry distorting the real concept of representative government has the voice of your spokesmen been lifted. There, then, in proof of the inseparable connection which links your Order with the basic doctrines of American civilization and I venture to assert the confidence that these indissoluble ties will remain strong and abiding.

Happily, you have adhered to the theory that the best way to have true fraternity among men is to practice it and as exemplars of such a method you have achieved success before the eyes of an approving citizenry.

Because of your constant emphasis upon the brotherhood of man, you have put to shame those who would divide man against man. You have presented concrete evidence that there are basic traits and characteristics, common to all, which are to be found in brothers from every part of the Country, if only we look for such traits and qualities. We, of Maryland, have not had to take the word of others as to your important contribution to citizenship. In the membership of your body, residing with this State, we are proud to acknowledge outstanding and whole-hearted adherence to true ideals which have been evidenced in their lives, individually and collectively.

For these reasons, as well as for others, I assure you from the bottom of my heart, that you never have found a truer welcome than is yours today in Maryland.

Your sessions will be productive of good to your Order and to your fellow-men, I am sure. It is also true, that additional time has been allowed by your untiring and devoted committees to permit you to experience and thoroughly enjoy the good things that our State has in store for you.

In the name of the people of Maryland and under the enviable circumstances which now exist, I consider it a high privilege, as Governor of the State, to welcome each and every one of you into our midst. We reiterate our friendliness and greeting based upon the knowledge that your organization has endeared itself to everyone who loves America and who is appreciative of the American form of living.

I salute you cordially and express the wish that you may carry away from our State a portion of the friendly and brotherly feeling which the people of this State have stored up for you.