

Of the dangers, and the world-wide implications, of the first phase of this two-fold struggle, there is general awareness among the people of America. To the defeat of the Axis powers—theirs is an unshakeable determination.

The news from Guadalcanal this morning reminds us only too well that we are in a war to the death—a war that we must win to survive. And the losses recounted among our gallant fighting forces leave no doubt in anyone's mind as to the sacrifices we must expect before Victory is won.

Concerning the second present-day problem, there is not as much general comprehension, for the understandable reason that the primary objective of our people is, and must be, to win the war. This second phase is the absolute necessity of maintaining our dual form of Government, with the States and the Federal Union as separate sovereign powers, and of preserving unimpaired, those priceless rights and freedoms which are the very essence of American citizenship.

An early American statesman once said, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of tyrants." These words might well be reiterated in times of crisis like this, because the importance of the States as individual units, self-sufficient unto themselves, has been re-emphasized in unmistakable terms.

We are at war to preserve our way of life. But business and professional men such as compose this Club must be vigilant to see that we maintain unchanged our form of Government which has proven itself worthy over a century and a half.

We are all aware of how much of our normal freedom of action we have surrendered—willingly and gladly—to meet the demands of the present situation. Emergency war powers have been granted to our President to an extent unprecedented in our history. These emergency powers are and must continue to be exercised for Victory. But let it be remembered they are emergency powers only.

If Victory results in drastic or essential change in our Constitutional Government, in the loss of the liberties essential to our way of life, it will be an empty Victory, indeed, for we shall have lost what we fought to save.

Today we are engaged in combating one of the most devastating assaults ever made upon the principles which are embodied in our way of life and philosophy of Government. In times such as these we are prone to be impatient with anything which seems to hinder the prosecution of those war efforts, even though it be the assertion of rights protected by our Constitution.

But in our eagerness to exert our fullest efforts to the destruction of our enemies, there is a latent danger that we may at the same time be laying the foundation for a definite change-about of our own way of life. At first glance it might be thought that it is contradiction to say that an all-out effort be made for war purposes and at the same time to preserve separate unities. However, the attitude and action of this State shows that it can be done.