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In such a critical period of our Nation's history, when the forces of hatred and aggression menace the free institutions that are the very basis of American life, it is a refreshing privilege to come before the members of an organization whose every precept is the direct antithesis of the enmities so prevalent today.

The example of your organization and of fraternal organizations of our Country generally, is continuing and conclusive evidence that there are other factors in the life of mankind than might and brute force. May the time return soon when all the world again will realize the truth of the principles embodied in our ritual; the virtues of Charity, Justice, Fidelity and Brotherly Love.

As the Chief Executive of our State, I am very happy to have the opportunity to extend to the members of your Order the congratulations and the appreciation of the people of Maryland, an appreciation based not alone on the high objectives of your Order, but also and more directly upon your well-known achievements in the field of Charity and Benevolence.

It is a fortunate thing, indeed, for this Country that your Organization, and similar associations of patriotic men and women, are in existence. Your very membership in the organization proves your devotion to American ideals and principles, for otherwise you could not have secured 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.

It undoubtedly is a matter of great pride to you, and well it may be, that in no un-American activity have your members ever been engaged; with no subversive attempt to overthrow the fundamentals of American Government have any of your leaders ever been identified; in no loud outcry distorting the real concept of representative government have the voices of your spokesmen ever been lifted. Here, in truth, is proof of the inseparable connection which ranks your Order with the basic doctrines of American civilization, and I venture to assert with confidence that these firm ties will remain strong and abiding.

Happily, and to the everlasting good of your Country and its citizens, you have adhered to the theory that the best way to have true fraternity among men is to practice it yourself. As exemplars of this policy, you have achieved success in the eyes of an approving citizenry.

Because of your emphasis upon the brotherhood of man, you continually put to shame those who would divide man against man, nation against nation. You have given indisputable evidence that there are basic traits and characteristics