

The Veterans' Commission, as you know, was given \$90,000 under this Administration, for assisting our less fortunate comrades and their families: for funeral expenses of such veterans and to provide compensation for members of the National Guard who may be injured or killed in the line of duty.

After reference to "What I like most about the Legion," when the call went forth, for volunteers for the American Army for the World War, was anyone rejected because of his creed, his color or his race? They were not! One and all were accepted gladly, and, without exception, every race and color and creed that comprise this great Country of ours, gave of their best, and reflected glory upon their origin.

On what basis, then, do special groups today reserve to themselves the right to decide who, among their fellow-citizens, shall be allowed the full enjoyment of their constitutional rights? Certainly, the American Legion has never sponsored any such un-American, un-patriotic movements, and I emphatically declare that there is no place in the American Legion for those who would penalize special group of our countrymen for any reason other than disloyalty to our Country. There is no place in the America we all love, for such disruptive activities. As true Legionnaires, we must be ready at all times to align ourselves against any effort to stir up class of racial feeling. This Country is for all of us, not for any special groups. When we forget that, when we begin to lose sight of the rights guaranteed all individuals under our Constitution, then will America be on the Path to destruction and ignominy. When the American Legion stands by and permits any such selfish movements to succeed, the American Legion will have outlived the ideal upon which it is founded, and will deserve to exist no longer.

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## TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION BANQUET AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Emerson Hotel, August 24, 1939

Baltimore

**A**S Chief Executive of the State, it is my happy privilege to convey to the American Legion, Department of Maryland, the greetings of the people of Maryland. I welcome the opportunity to say to you that now, possibly more than ever before in the history of our State, are we proud of, and grateful for the American Legion, and the ideals of Americanism and toleration for which it stands. For never, apparently, in our long history has the whole world been more sadly lacking in just those priceless ideals of Americanism and toleration. When we refer to the Legion, we of course include the Ladies Auxiliary because of the important part played by its members in every activity and undertaking.

When, slightly more than twenty years ago, (shortly after the close of the Great War) a small group of ex-service men gathered together in Paris, and decided to form an organization that would continue the associations of the World War, and would perpetuate the ideals for which America took part in that great struggle, they builded better than they knew. To their way of thinking, perhaps, war was finally a thing of the past, because doubtless they