

NATIONAL PARK COLLEGE—COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

June 4, 1941

Forest Glen

IT is a happy privilege that has been accorded me to address the young women of National Park College who are being graduated from this very splendid Maryland institution.

Merely to view the delightful surroundings here would suffice to explain the reluctance that I know the graduated have to saying "Farewell" to their college days here. When one considers, in addition, the troubled situation in the world into which they have in stepping, well may they be pardoned for whatever hesitancy they have in stepping forth to their respective spheres in life.

With such an abrupt change in individual status looming, after the sheltered years spent within these college confines, undoubtedly the young women who are making their final collegiate appearance here today have many questioning thoughts in mind as to the future, and what their part in it will be.

Any attempt to crystallize these thoughts would result, I am confident, in bringing forth two or three major queries as uppermost in the minds of all. To begin with, they probably are asking themselves—and well may they ask—"What kind of a world is this into which I am going?" Next in importance as a topic for inquiry, would probably be: "What can I do to make the world better?" Finally, and bringing the whole matter somewhat closer to our present precarious national situation, doubtless many are asking themselves, "In this emergency now facing America, what is there that I can do to help insure the preservation of those things we hold nearest and dearest?"

To young women who have been so favored, from an educational standpoint, as the young women at National Park College, undoubtedly much will be expected in the way of leadership and service to Country. There never was a time in the history of the world when thoughtful leadership was more a requisite than now; when the gentle, humanitarian leadership of women was more in demand.

The world all about us, the world into which you young women now are called to take your places, is one that has suddenly become bereft of much of the culture and humanitarian principles that have been built up over the last thousand years.

Not only does inhuman warfare now rage throughout a great portion of the globe, but even more disturbing than the wars themselves are the inhuman ideologies that seek to justify them. Whereas in centuries past there was never any doubt as to the right or wrong of national action, nowadays totalitarian governmental policies have been so ingrained in the minds and hearts of the oncoming generation in certain countries that they apparently no longer have the proper appreciation of the innate values of their actions. They have come,