

In conclusion, may I refer to the statement included in my inaugural address to the effect that I would keep constantly in mind the fact that my administration would be measured by the character of legislation and by the manner of our administration. In the light of the success which has attended the first three months with the Legislature in session, I am encouraged more than ever in the belief that we can go forward in the effort to advance our State along forward-looking lines. Undoubtedly the past session has been productive of lasting, worthwhile results.

Feeling that the citizens are entitled to have a first hand report of the functioning of your government, I have made this broadcast. I intend to continue in the course along which I have started, namely, to aim for the very best in government and for the whole-hearted cooperation and support of public citizens in order to effect worthwhile accomplishments for Maryland.

MASS INITIATION—THE AMERICAN LEGION

War Memorial Building, April 28, 1939

Baltimore

IT affords me a deep sense of pleasure to be with you tonight, at your Mass Initiation for 1939, just as it always does to attend Legion affairs, and to meet the many, many friends I have, and value, in the various Posts of the State. Tonight, however, the presence of so many of you, and of this new class of applicants for membership, gives me an additional sense of security and well-being, a feeling that America has little to fear while such groups as the American Legion survive.

As your Chief Executive, I bring to you and to all the Legionnaires of the State, the greetings of the State of Maryland, and I assure you that Maryland and all the States of our Country are fortunate, indeed, in these troubled times, to have within their citizenry such a splendid organization as the American Legion.

As I stand here, looking down upon this cross-section of the manhood of our State, I cannot help but contrast what is taking place here with what is transpiring across the ocean from us. Here before us we have a great American organization, made up of all classes of our citizenry, a volunteer body of America's patriotic manhood, strengthening its ranks, broadening its influence, by taking into its membership other patriotic Americans who believe in, and who are anxious to have a hand in, the important work the Legion is doing to safeguard our liberties and our free American institutions.

In England, on the other hand, as you have seen in the papers of the past few days, there is no longer room for volunteer action for the preservation of liberties—now it is **MUST**, and for the first time in Great Britain's peacetime history, the young men of the nation **MUST** join the armed forces for a six months' period, and after that **MUST** be enrolled in one branch or another of the English armies. Under the circumstances, may we not all feel, as did the poet Robert Browning, when he wrote that—"God's in His Heaven, and All's Right with the World"—at least as far as America is concerned.