

WAR BOND RALLY—COLISEUM—UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

September 24, 1942

College Park

There is no need to be apologetic or backward in talking about United States War Bonds. For one thing - - a very important thing- - War Bonds are a guilt-edge financial investment. But the matter goes far beyond that on finance. When a person buys war bonds, he is investing in freedom. He is treating himself to an interest-bearing share of liberty. He is adding weight to the milestone which Democracy is fashioning for the neck of Dictators.

Never presume that these things which we have come to take for granted in America - -our freedom and independence - - were had for the asking. They were purchased with the blood of our fighters, the sweat of our workers, the money of our citizens in times past.

Most important still, don't presume that these things will always be ours merely by reason of the fact that we now possess them. What was bought by toil and sacrifice and blood must be retained with the same eternal coinage. The amount we must pay will be higher, for the stakes today are more than our ancestors ever dreamed of. As this is a global war, so the measure of our effort must be vast. Blood and sweat and money in amounts never calculated before must be paid out for the security of the blessings willed us by our forefathers.

Let the mind's eye view the deserted cities, the ravaged villages, the desolate farm lands of Europe. Then let us ask ourselves if we can afford not to make this investment in the Arsenal of Democracy. Let our people consider the wretched slavery and the degradation of the once free peoples beyond the seas, and then say how much our share of freedom is worth.

It took money, your money, to launch those thundering battleships and planes which dispersed the Japanese Armada. Don't you think that money was well spent? It takes money, lots of it, to feed and clothe and otherwise supply American boys who are today in the Orient, in Iceland, in Egypt. Do you begrudge those boys your contribution? Would you have your Government refuse to give them everything they need?

We have stood hard by the principles of private ownership here in America. It is one of the privileges of our freedom. Yet it does not require very deep thinking to understand that, in a large sense, every owner of property and every possessor of money is a shareholder in a great Commonwealth. We have been able to enjoy the benefits of opportunity and prosperity only because property and money are held in trust for us by a representative Government. When, then, that Government is threatened, we are all of us placed in peril of life and property. How long would we own homes and have access to our bank accounts if the guardian of these possessions came to grief, if the unthinkable were to happen, and America be tumbled to defeat.