

with us, to restore and perpetuate those ideals without which life would be meaningless to any American.

It is a distinct personal pleasure for me to be here this evening to welcome to our State our distinguished visitor. I might be pardoned for a reference to a former occasion when I had the opportunity of welcoming the British Ambassador—it was in June last at the Conference of Governors' in Asheville, North Carolina. In effect, the events of the war immediately preceding the conference approached a second Dunkirk, Tobruk had just fallen with resultant shock to the world, but with characteristic faith in his fellow-countrymen, our guest then predicted that with American cooperation the African continent would be redeemed. His unshakeable determination was assuring and his knowledge of the power of the United Nations has been proven by subsequent events.

Tonight, happily, he comes in a different setting. Tobruk has been avenged and the situation in North Africa, difficult as it still is, undoubtedly far surpasses any hope that even the most optimistic could have entertained. Because of the just pride in the achievements of our own forces in this North Africa campaign, and because of the tremendous advancement it marks for the United Nations' cause, we can rejoice tonight with our visitor and share with him the confidence of ultimate and not-too-long-deferred Victory. Once again, Maryland and great Britain have joined hands across the sea. Many of Maryland's sons tonight are in that far-off isle, awaiting the "zero hour" that will mark their active entry into hostilities.

It is my happy privilege at this time to have the opportunity, on behalf of the Maryland Branch of the English-speaking Union, to present to our visitor a token whose historical significance is matched only by its personal significance. It is entirely fitting that such a presentation should come on the occasion of this 309th anniversary of the sailing of the Ark and Dove.

To us here in Maryland it is a historical document, indeed, in that it paved the way for the coming to Maryland of that great pioneer who established the Land of Sanctuary so dear to the heart of everyone here tonight. It is a photostat of a letter of Lord Baltimore, dated August 19, 1629, representing the first move toward the founding of the then un-named and undefined Palatinate of Maryland. Composed in the attempted colony of Avalon in Newfoundland, it is apparently the original declaration from Lord Baltimore to Charles the First stating his desire to establish a colony in this vicinity. In presenting it I express the hope that the ties of friendship and comradeship, so close this evening between our respective Countries, may grow even more binding, and that nothing may ever happen to dissipate the friendship of the two great English-speaking Democracies of the world.

To you, Lord Halifax, as a representative of a people for whom we have the utmost admiration, I offer this slight tribute of affection from the people of Maryland.