

a chosen few. When men talk and seek to influence you along these intolerant ways, remember for your own sake that no man is safe as long as any other man is persecuted or ostracized because of his race or religion. Remember further, that the blood and brawn of each and all of the races have made contribution to the building up of the Country whose blessings we enjoy.

Condemning all counterfeit "Americanism," let us hail the glorious land and institutions which to us mean real "Americanism." Let us with humble thankfulness pay homage to those who through the years have set up and maintained for us—this generation—the right of free speech—free assembly—free worship—free press—(including radios, books, theatres, moving pictures, etc.) which texts are the sign manual of our liberties. While two-thirds of the European world stands almost broken under arms, and struggles uncertainly with fear for tomorrow, let us stimulate the appreciation of our people for real "Americanism." In thankfulness and pride, let us again swear fealty to our God, our traditions, our institutions, our ideals, and our kind.

Today, there is every reason why "Americanism" should be a living pulsating thing in the hearts and minds of every resident of this Country. No other country on the face of the earth has so much that is definitely worthy being proud of, and definitely worth protecting. Our priceless liberty, our prestige among the nations of the earth, our spiritual leadership makes the rest of the nations of the world turn instinctively towards the United States in an hour of emergency, to see what our Country is likely to do, before they begin to chart their own courses.

As you leave here tonight, thank God that he has seen fit to place you in a land where you can be truly free, in mind, in spirit and in action. Thank God for it, I say, and resolve tonight as possibly you may never have resolved before, to do whatever may be necessary, to sacrifice whatever you may be called upon to sacrifice, rather than yield one iota of the free institutions that you inherited from your forebears, with the understanding that you would pass them on to posterity untarnished and undiminished.

At such a gathering as this, it seems to me to be in order to say just a word about the attitude of the present State Administration with regard to legislation affecting Veterans. Over a period of years, such laws have been reenacted with changes that bring them more into line with present day needs, and there is very little to be desired in such legislation now. I am happy to say, however, that the Administration did accomplish a worth-while objective in strengthening the Veterans' Preference Section of the Merit System law, to the point where, in choosing from an eligibility list, a Department Head *must* give preference to any veteran thereon, or file with the Employment Commissioner a substantial reason for not doing so.

Should a veteran be passed over, the State Employment Commissioner is directed by the new Act to determine the sufficiency of the reason given, and, if found insufficient, shall require the appointing officer to submit more detailed information in support of his choice. Then if the Employment Commissioner considers the reason given as insufficient, he *must* order the employment of the veteran in place of the person previously selected, and a copy sent to the veteran eligible. I believe this is as favorable a statute as any veteran or veterans' organization could ask.