

as a result of education directed to this end by ambitious rulers, to a point where they believe anything they do, no matter how dastardly, no matter how it contravenes the rights of others, is perfectly justifiable, in so far as it serves the purpose of that insatiable something which they call "The State."

Throughout the world nationalistic ambitions and greed are running rampant, and we see strong nations not only willing to subjugate, but ruthlessly destroying, any nation or national group that offers the slightest obstacle to their ambition.

Briefly, that is the kind of world into which the graduates of today, you young women among them, are stepping. What you, or anyone, can do to better this situation is at the moment a serious question.

Worthy ideals, if expressed at all in the totalitarian countries today, would find little acceptance, and probably would insure unpleasant treatment for those advocating them. However, the inescapable record of history has been that even the most violent attempts to overthrow, or to dominate, the accepted order have, in the end, come to naught. Decent, right-thinking men and women of today can, at the moment, only look forward with hope and confidence to the ultimate prevalence of "right over might."

With respect to our own Country, however, a very much more definite contribution can be made, must be made, by educated womankind among our citizenry, if we are to be preserved from the fate that has befallen so many other free peoples, and if, being so fortunate, we are to chart a safe course along the rocky path that still must be ours.

Standing as we do on the brink of international chaos we must be supremely well-reasoned in our national decisions if we are to avoid the disasters that threaten to engulf us. Fortunate it is, therefore, that there are splendid institutions of higher learning, such as this, to bring to the support and guidance of our government thousands of educated, thoughtful young persons. For the culture and education that are theirs will be sorely needed in meeting and solving the tremendous problems that now face, and undoubtedly will continue to face, the Country for many years to come.

A decade, two decades ago, graduates of such institutions as this had few worries to confront them! There were then comparatively few things that a college woman could do besides taking her place in society and preparing for a future in her own home as the mother of a family. The professions were closed to her, and a woman in business and industry was a rarity. Today we are most fortunate in America, in that there is hardly a single sphere of activity, where the assistance of educated women is not eagerly sought. Not only in the professions, but in industries as well, and particularly in the creative phases of industry, those phases that ultimately may decide the fate of the world conflict now going on, are the hand and mind of women becoming increasingly more potent.

Furthermore, in our system of democratic government, the influence of thinking women is being reflected more and more in candidates and officials, to the increasing elevation of standards therein and to the definite betterment of administrative procedures.