

KIWANIS CLUB OF BALTIMORE—LUNCHEON, EMERSON HOTEL

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Baltimore

The people of America today face a two-fold struggle, upon the outcome of which definitely depends the freedom and well being of every man, woman and child, not only of this generation but of many generations to come.

Of the dangers, and the world-wide implications, of the first phase of this two-fold struggle, there is general awareness among the people of America. After years of doubt and lingering hopes that America's war fears were unfounded, our people finally on last December 7th saw the Axis threat for what it was—a treacherous, brutal attempt to overthrow the freedoms and the humane principles upon which so many nations were founded, and to replace them with the shackles of slavery and military despotism.

To the defeat of these Axis threats, the people of America are united as never before in a determination that, come what may, cost what it may, this war will not be ended until the military ambitions of the Nazi and Japanese leaders are once and for all shattered.

Concerning the second present-day problem, there is not as much general interest, for the understandable reason that the primary objective of our people is to win the war. The second phase of this two-fold struggle is the absolute necessity of maintaining our dual form of Government, with the States and the Federal Union as respective sovereign powers, according to the pattern so wisely decreed by the founders of this Country.

All of you know what our fundamental guarantees are. Liberty of speech and press, of peace assembly, of religious worship; freedom from condemnation except after fair and impartial trial—all those basic rights which are included within our concept of due process of law—rights which we regard as so precious, so fundamental that, in the words of Justice Cardozo, they are “of the very essence of a scheme of ordered liberty”. They lie at the base of all our civil and political institutions, “rooted in the traditions and conscience of our people.” We have enshrined them in our Constitutions, State and Federal, and there they constitute, not merely a declaration of National policy, but a constant bar against all branches of our Government to the end that freedom of the individual under law may forever continue.

These are the very rights that today are threatened with destruction from without, for our Axis enemies would replace them by a cold and brutal philosophy which accords no liberties to the individual, but rather makes him a slave to Government by despots.

We are at war to preserve those rights for all mankind. But business and