

THE MOMENT OF VICTORY

On June 6, 1944, we assembled here at the moment of the European invasion for a short period of quiet reverent thinking and personal dedication. Our Allied Nations' might had started its thrust against the European enemy's stronghold. That stronghold has proved to be a house of cards. Its faulty structure and foundation could not withstand the idealism, intelligence, physical power, technology, and sacrificial but determined human flesh and blood and spirit that were hurled against it.

Free men have conquered would-be dictators whose followers were driven or blindly lead. The philosophy of materialism has fallen before intelligent and inspired idealism. Governments captured by avaricious men hungry for power have been destroyed. These so-called leaders no longer can bend men to their will for their own self-centered purposes.

But the war is not yet over. ~~Let us not forget that~~ There is still a formidable foe in the Pacific that ~~still~~ must be conquered. So while we rejoice in our first victory, our obligation is to strengthen our resolve and dedicate ourselves anew to the unfinished task.

Let us also re-dedicate ourselves to the purposes for which we fight.

Our nation must forever be a dwelling place of free men, of strong men, of men of good-will. It can be such only if you and I and all citizens everywhere think right, do right, and keep a government that will do our will. This means individual responsibility -- to be intelligently formed, a thinking, and a cooperating unit in a big patriotic enterprise. ^{as a nation} ~~We~~ cannot live unto ourselves alone. Neither can we live to force men to do our bidding. The new day demands strong individuals who are able and willing to think, and plan, and work together. The rampant individualism of the earlier frontiers of American History are gone. The new day requires strong units working strongly together for great common purposes, but for purposes that ennoble men, not debase, dwarf or enslave them.

College education takes on new significance. True, it still must help the individual develop his powers, his personality, and increase his chances to succeed economically. College must still help the individual become a happy person who enjoys the cultural wealth of the ages. But college education today must do more than create vocationally competent and culturally sensitive persons. Civic and social effectiveness are the major needs of the day.

Communities, states, the nation, the world order must be understood. Their purposes must be made clear in terms of human need and welfare. Their activities must be directed. Their offices must be manned by men of intelligence, competency and good will, and who reflect faithfully the needs, desires, and aims of their constituency. College education should result in the building of men and women who are not only efficient bread winners and home makers, but also industrious, intelligent and efficient social and civic leaders.

We are challenged at this moment to assess ourselves, our nation, and our world. Does injustice exist? Are we free from entrenched selfishness? Do we respect one another as persons? Does race prejudice exist? Are there over-privileged among us? Underprivileged? All these questions and more need the scrutiny of all men everywhere.

Our fighting men have won the first war. And if reports from the front are right the average fighting man has wanted home, friends, freedom, work, play, an automobile, respect. He has wanted a chance to count in the world, to be somebody, to live and let live.

With this first war won it is incumbent upon you and me to dedicate ourselves to seeing that that common fighting man has a real chance to get what he has wanted and earned. It is what we want, too. These things will come only if you and I possess the qualities essential to personal bigness and to social strength. We must study, think, work, plan, cooperate for personal and social goals. These are the things we must do if the European war shall not have been fought in vain.