

The President's Page

Senator Charles Noah Orr was one of Minnesota's most distinguished citizens, having served as a member of its State Senate for more than 30 years, and was the Majority Leader of that Body for a decade. At the time of his death in 1949 he was a member of the Board of Regents of Hamline University, and had served three years as the Eminent Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of North America. He was distinguished in many fields, and a matchless orator. The following is an excerpt from an address which he delivered in 1946, and which is as pertinent today as it was six years ago.

Lawless

WE are here met in solemn assemblage joining glorious heritage and past in a fearful present—peering apprehensively, yet hopefully, to an ominous future. Climactic days challenge as has no time in the history of this great era. Beside the problems which frantically beg civilization's attention, man's puny efforts as now constituted are impotent and insufficient. Unity is lacking at home and abroad. Selfishness and evil, precursors of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, abound in all lands and among all peoples. Within these United States we have been witness far too often since V-J Day of ructions and perversions which gnaw awesomely at the vitals of the nation.

But in America confusions multiply and false doctrines are seemingly given right-of-way at the polls and in high places, the Christian well-springs are as of the moment untaunted. From them shall yet come the draughts which shall purify our way of life, and again shall be established the verities to which the Founding Fathers gave adherence and devotion. Upon the tenets of Christianity do we stand in firm and unyielding opposition to Communism, Fascism, Socialism or any other political device which is abhorrent to the Constitution of our beloved country.

I am moved to talk plainly, as a private citizen of the United States of America, fearfully conscious of my responsibilities to you and to the land which gives us hospitality and well-being. I stand before you weighed down by the calamities of the hour, striving in the brief time given me to evaluate aright the price which my countrymen and women, and men and women of good will everywhere, have paid that we might freely meet in these precincts.

Certainly, the gravity of issues here and abroad is so earnest that only through the application of Christian and kindred influences can mankind arrive at approximations of justice in the world. Certainly in this country there is ample testimony on every hand to indict those wholesale strivings which are the illegitimate reachings for power or pelf by rapacious blocs and groups which have dared set themselves above the sovereign government. This is not in the pattern of the America of the Constitution, nor in the design of the nation which the youth has so recently served in pouring out its blood.

Is there no challenge to us, even as we gather here, no challenge to take more seriously and more personally those obligations which are cardinal to our role as citizens of the greatest republic on the face of the globe? Shall we be content to be followers in the ranks of those who are hopelessly gone astray and groping, knowing not what direction to take, nor what leader to follow? What are we doing here and in the environs of our local communities to safeguard the victory at arms and production which was wrought in the blood, sweat, grime and tears of a populace united in the herculean task of winning a world war?

Comparatively short days ago the enemy with whom we had been engaged through long years of grueling conflict laid down his arms. Well-motivated citizens of the nation believed that a people which had successfully joined resources and spirit to wrest such a victory would not be denied its fruits. There was assurance that a comparable concert would persist, and that its issue would be a civil economy completely deferential to the price paid for victory in the rich, red blood and agony of those who sacrificed their all.

But this was not to be. Ugly avarice reared its head and in the warfare since ensuing, critical civilian production has been lost and inflation spurred.

The exhortation to us all in this crucial hour is "Onward Christian Soldier." Citizens, to your "Battle Stations!" There are beachheads to take against the corrupting influences in the land, against those elements which make a mockery of American Citizenship. Let us blast out of American Cities big and little, those evildoers who prey upon general society. Let us raise higher the standard of government everywhere. There are no national ills which honesty will not compose, no problems which cannot be resolved if integrity, sincerity and adherence to the Constitution predominate. I urge all of you to join with the wholesome influences in his community and state to the end that justice shall prevail.

It is not to be gainsaid that there is a patriotism of peace which is no less important than the patriotism of war. It is rooted in the individual loyalties of the general citizenry and is watered in work. Constructive effort is fundamental as a surcease for besetting problems and it is only as people accept their obligations in this domain that amity is given invigoration, and the production achieved with which to fight the hurricanes blowing their spirals of inflation and unrest.

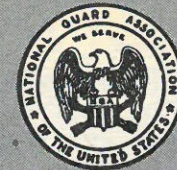
We would covet for ourselves a large measure of the inspiration to bring about world peace, but the processes which lead up to such an accord must have their beginnings within ourselves, in our own communities, in the states and provinces within nations. America can best serve the tasks of the hour and keep its rendezvous with destiny by rearing here a well-ordered domestic economy. It is a first requisite to making a full contribution to world peace.

We deal in this moment of history with such realities as the rocket and atomic bombs, germ sprays and other developments of science which are at once a threat and a promise. Wisely utilized they can herald the millennium. In the hands of marauder nations or individual perverts they omen such destruction that only the direct intervention of God can save remnants of the human race. Truly, Armageddon is near. Awesome is the challenge, great the opportunity. We must not shrink from the grave commitments which the times impose. I charge you one and all to be vigilant, brave and forthright in all your duties. I invest you once more with the emblem of our faith, the Cross, and challenge you again and again to "imitate the virtues of the Immaculate Jesus, who died that you might live." Let each new day be a Pearl Harbor in its challenge for the giving of our best.

You have given me high inspiration through turbulent days. As Christians, yes, Master Christians, I charge you to keep the faith, and to hold fast to all that is Eternal. Go back to your communities inspired to lead your fellow-citizens to higher plateaus in wholesomeness. Water the plant Christianity at the grass roots. Root out selfishness and promote those principles which Christ charged His disciples to propagate.

This is no time for fuzzy moral and spiritual thinking. God gives us the vision to see beyond earthly parapets toward horizons which reveal the New Jerusalem. Through Christ shall we experience Resurrection and Immortality. Let us here and now affirm and reaffirm our faith in the Risen Emmanuel, the great Captain of our Salvation, and with swords aloft and banners to the breeze, *March On.*

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dear guardsmen:

Remember our chatting last October about how the "spoony" outfits have come, more and more, to wearing scarves as a dressy part of the drab uniform for ceremonial occasions? The ideas we had been mulling-over at that time have jelled and, in consequence, some hundreds of unit COs already have heard about it.

The idea is that to interest more enlisted men in reading THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN regularly, and to help Guard units outfit themselves with colorful yet military-looking scarves for parades and ceremonies, we are offering a scarf in color appropriate to the unit's Arm or Service, to every enlisted Guardsman who enters a year's subscription.

The CO of one unit that got itself completely outfitted this way wrote us: "We received our scarves and the men in the company are very pleased. It has improved the appearance 100% in that the men are now trying to equal the 'sharpness' of the scarves in the rest of their apparel. I would like to thank the person or persons in whom the idea originated."

Another CO asked us to push through his men's orders before Army Inspection and, in a "thank you" letter later, said: "The scarves were received in time for our inspection and achieved the desired results."

Our modest (numerically) staff has been getting the details as to how the tie-in works, to unit commanders as fast as possible, but it will take quite a while to work our way clear down the list. If you haven't received a big envelope containing all the poop, and don't want to wait until we can get yours to you, please drop us a line.

THE STAFF.

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our cover

Conveying a sense of ominous power, Uncle Sam's new, giant T43 heavy tank stands silhouetted against a darkening sky at the Chrysler Delaware Tank Plant. The silhouetting is not only for photographic effect—it is to blank out construction details for reasons of military security. (Photo from Chrysler Corporation.)