

## To the Class of 1935:

Ever since the establishment of this Republic, some people, both at home and abroad, have been saying that a democratic form of government cannot endure. They say that people are not competent to rule themselves. This pessimistic chorus increases in volume in times of stress, but falls to a faint whisper during more prosperous times. During the prolonged depression of recent years, even staunch supporters of democracy have experienced moments of doubt. They wonder whether the divergent class and regional interests of our vast country can be composed in the interest of national well being.

At such times it is comforting to slip away to some quiet corner and review the history of the past. At first we are surprised to find that the things which we thought were new are often as old as civilization itself. They are new only to our individual and personal experiences. We find that the recent World War is not the first war which led to overconfidence as to the future price level. It is not the first war which was followed by a severe depression, accompanied by widespread unemployment, want and despair. It is not the first war which was followed by social unrest and an attempt to overthrow existing institutions for something which is vaguely described as the promised land.

We return from our hour of seclusion to face the practical world as it exists around about us. We see abuses which should be corrected. Certain reforms would lead to a higher standard of living for all concerned. This much desired goal, however, will not be reached by overthrowing all that has gone before. We should hold fast to that which has proven worth while, and which was obtained at no small cost of both life and property.

The period of reconstruction which now confronts us will require patience, tolerance and the best thought of trained minds. It is my hope that members of the Class of 1935 will play an important part, not only in supporting, but in formulating those policies which will add to human happiness. An enlightened democracy can and will endure.

Sincerely yours,

A. A. DOWELL.