

of the cloud of war that hangs over this country. God helping us, we are not going to get into the war.

I pray that we may keep out of the war if we can keep out of it honorably, and I stress that term "honorably," because not only have we to think of the loss of life of these boys of ours whom we are coaching today, not only have we to think of the tremendous piling up of debts that will never be paid—even by our grandchildren—but isn't it true that there must, when this holocaust is over, be some great nation that has stood apart and that will have in its hands the rehabilitation of a war-torn world? I think so; and I think that is the challenge to you and to me today—to think of athletics in broader terms than we ever have before, because America is the only great nation in which academic matters are moving forward normally. Only three weeks ago they dropped bombs and tore apart the great old University at Athens. Four weeks ago they closed the two universities in Holland because there were Jewish professors in them who insisted upon teaching the truth. Last spring they entirely destroyed the library of the University of Louvain, and with it 750,000 volumes—many of them first editions without any duplicates in the world. Today there is no university education, as it should be, in Germany—that country from which the best scholars of the world have come. Those universities are still open, but they are propaganda institutions. Truth and the teaching of truth have been eliminated from them. In Oxford and Cambridge there is little academic life. Cambridge is partially a military headquarters, and most of those boys are in the R.A.F. The Sorbonne in Paris is out of the picture. The great University in Poland has been destroyed. We sent no boys abroad as Rhodes Scholars this year.

I am saying all this merely to suggest to you that on the American college and on the American university, on their departments—those of athletics more than a good many others, perhaps—there rests the responsibility of preserving civilization at a most trying time in the history of the world. That is what we are here for, as I take it, to consider how to preserve certain values; how to strengthen the youth of America to meet the issue which is to come before them.

I have said to you that we hope to God that we will not be in this war and in this present military conflict. But there isn't a chance in the world that the boys in your gymnasiums, in your locker rooms, will not be called upon, when they graduate, to participate in a tremendous economic and social and political conflict forced upon us by the totalitarian powers.

There is something that we can face and realize, and that