

this country. Let's make something out of it. Let's show that the athletic departments of the American colleges can justify themselves as training schools of fine citizenship.

It is trite, of course, to say that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of great private schools, of Eton, in England; but it isn't trite to say that the athletic officers of the American colleges today have it in their hands to decide whether or not the young men of America will go forth prepared, either for warfare when the guns are booming, or in the other warfare that we must face, economic and social and political.

I remember, some years ago when I lived in Washington, I was asked by the Boy Scouts to give a George Washington Birthday address at the Tomb of the First Great American, during their annual pilgrimage to Mount Vernon. I drove down with General LeJeun, whom some of you knew. We got there before the Boy Scouts did, because of the fact that they came down by excursion steamer. As we stood there by the Tomb, a little group from the American Citizenship School of Washington came up—about thirty of them from eighteen or nineteen to twenty-three years of age. A boy stepped forward with a poor little wreath and laying it against the grated door of the tomb in broken English, with tears rolling down his cheeks he said, "George Washington, you are dead. You cannot speak to us. But you can speak to God. Speak to God, George Washington, and ask Him to make us good citizens of the country which has done so much for us."

I thought then, and I have thought many times since, that if we could teach the college boys of America to utter that prayer from their hearts, not from their lips, America would be safer than she is today.

You have that power. I have that power. There is no separation between the athletic departments and the other departments in our colleges today, in their opportunity and their responsibility for that service which may save civilization.