

autocracy. [Applause.] Since Sumter was fired upon nothing has been heard more ominous of danger to these United States than the Kaiser's warning, "I will stand no nonsense from the United States."

My friends, we celebrate this fifty-fifth anniversary in another struggle for the very thing for which our fathers fought. Our responsibility is that we defend our inheritance. If we fail their sacrifices were in vain. Upon us has fallen a greater task than fell to them, and I say it advisedly, we shall succeed solely by the same willing sacrifice of men and treasure. The world is now paying a penalty for our lack of preparedness. But we have begun. We have raised billions for defense, and these United States will never spend one cent in tribute. There are dark days ahead of us. Again the call is for men and our best again are going, and, thank God, again rises from their ranks, "For three years or during the war." [Applause.] We who cannot go will sustain them by all our powers and all our possessions. Our patriotism will not end by hanging our flags from the third-story windows of our houses. Every soldier and every sailor going abroad must know he has all the possessions of the United States and the heart of every American, man and woman, in the United States supporting him. [Applause.]

To this full measure of devotion this Union League of 1917 pledges itself with all that it has and with all that it can get, appealing to the patriots' God for success.

I said there are dark days ahead of us, but that does not mean that while we face the problem, we minimize our strength, nor do we minimize our determination, but with one heart, with one voice and with one object, and that not a selfish one, the United States faces the greatest test