

Let us always look forward to the American soldier returning home not only safely, as some of them will not, but victorious. Because we must defend the freedoms for not only the people of this Nation, but we must defend the freedoms of the free peoples of the world. [Applause.]

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. That was a nice speech, Jim.

Mr. HALEY. I hadn't finished.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Excuse me.

Mr. HALEY. Don't cut me off now. [Laughter.]

And, Mr. Commander, to you and your organization and to the men who follow you in this high office. I say to the VFW: Continue what you have been doing in the past. Come to us individually or as a committee, because I think at this particular time more than at any time in the history of our Nation, we need, we beg, we want the advice of the counsel and the guidance of such fine American citizens.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Walter Baring?

Mr. BARING. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Commander, I haven't been here as long as my chairman, but for 16 years now I have looked forward to this day every year when we meet with our veterans' groups.

Last year I had the distinct honor of introducing the commander, Leslie Fry, who comes from my hometown, and it was a real honor, and I want to say that is is hard to follow Jim Haley.

Jim and I think alike and vote alike and everything else, so it is hard for me to make any remarks this morning. Last week I told the Legion practically the same things that you did in your wonderful statement today, on patriotism and the youth of our country, and when I looked at this group of 54 young people here today, I am very proud, believe it, as a former schoolteacher myself. I look to the youth of today as our hope of tomorrow and believe it, folks, we have our eyes on you and your contest night will show how you patriotically love your country.

We think this is a great program, Girls State and Boys State programs, as well as the Voice of Democracy. These things count, instead of this little group—and it is a dangerous group—that use the marijuana and junk and pot and LSD and the other people who are trying to tear us down. You are the examples that go forward and show the better side of life, and we are very proud of you.

To the veterans in general, you have a big job across the country, each and every one of you in your own individual way, but I want to say that this is a happy day in my life to see Americans brought together like this, all of one mind, who will go out and carry our program forward in the way we wish it.

Mr. Commander, your speech was excellent and I certainly appreciate it. I couldn't add anything to it. You included everything.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Everett, of Tennessee.

Mr. EVERETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to concur in what has been said by our distinguished colleagues, and what will be said by other members of the committee. I assure you of my fullest cooperation in working on all your programs.

I thank you. [Applause.]