

Announcer: What does V-E Day mean to Oregon, Governor?

Governor: The unconditional surrender of the Nazi war machine in Europe certainly is cause for widespread rejoicing in Oregon. While it is a day of great rejoicing yet it should not be a day of wild celebration. Truly it is a day for prayerful thanksgiving. V-E Day undoubtedly means to Oregon a concentration of activities here on the West coast such as we have never experienced heretofore. Our transportation facilities likely will be taxed to the utmost. ^{Another thing} There will be certain cutbacks in the production of war goods and materials which will have some effect no doubt upon the social and economic life of the people of Oregon. There will ^{be} undoubtedly ~~be~~ a gradual return to peace time production of civilian goods. There will be certain relaxation of some war-time restrictions heretofore imposed but such relaxation will probably have its greatest effect in those parts of our country farther east from our coast line. Although the possibilities of direct attack on the West Coast are very remote, yet there are many ever present dangers which we must guard against and as a result certain restrictions even though in modified form may remain effective in our state. This is, of course, a matter for determination by the federal officials.

Announcer: What in your opinion, Governor, would be a perfect tribute or an appropriate tribute for V-E Day?

Governor: ^{Captain Cummins} Well, ~~we~~ we must not forget that our boys are still out in the far Pacific fighting for our freedom at this very hour. We must not forget the great sacrifices that have been made. Thousands have made the supreme sacrifice. Were it not for those sacrifices, were it not for the heroic deeds and accomplishments of the members of our armed forces the very peace and security of our beloved homeland might today be in serious jeopardy. Were it not for those sacrifices the very peace and security of freedom-loving peoples everywhere might be in serious jeopardy. - rather could it have been slavery and subjugation.

So in answer to your question, I should say that the appropriate tribute would be two-fold -- first, to join in a prayer of thanksgiving and a prayer for early victory - final and complete - over the ruthless enemy in the Pacific. And next, our rejoicing today should be tempered with a renewed determination - a determination to produce even to a greater extent - a determination to press forward to the utmost of our energy and capacity. During this war Oregon has established records of production which have been the envy of the nation and have been reviewed by other countries with considerable amazement. Those records must be maintained until the Japanese join their comrades of Nazi tyranny in unconditional surrender.

Announcer: Now, Governor, one final question: How long in your opinion will the Japanese war last:

Governor: I do not feel at all qualified to provide an answer to the question or rather a prophecy. Various estimates on the part of those who should be qualified to predict running from six months to nearly three years. We should now find a concentration of ships and planes and men in the vicinity of this remaining axis partnership. It should be a pounding that no nation could long endure. Yet we saw evidence of their underground fortifications when we invaded some of their islands. I am hoping and praying that they will be brought to their knees ere the close of 1945. Let each and every one of us contribute to the utmost in backing our boys to the full limits of our capacity to the end that they be returned home again at the earliest possible moment.