

China Day in North America 1942

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

1 February 2014



This is a piece of Rotary International history about the Republic of China (中華民國) in February 1942. President Tom J. Davis requested that each Club in the United States and Canada (there were more than 3,000) should, before 15th February, hold a meeting which would feature a program devoted to the interests of China. Here is the story

Commencing July 1937, the Imperial Japan launched full scale aggression to the Republic of China. With the attack on Pearl Harbor and the opening of the Pacific War in December 1941, China became one of the Allied Powers. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek (蔣中正統帥) was even named the “Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the China Theatre plus India and Burma”. The Second Sino-Japanese War since 1937 became a chapter of the World War II. China moved in November 1937 the Central Government from Nanking (*Nanjing*) (南京) to Chungking (*Chongqing*) (重慶) where became the war-time capital as well as the command center for the Allied Forces in the Far East. As at 1 January 1942, there should be 25 Rotary clubs in China, but about 15 of them were not functioning due to the cities occupied by the Imperial Japanese Forces.

On 1 February 1942, Rotary International President Tom J. Davis gave his presidential message with ample answer to the question: “What can Rotary do in a world at war?” (The full text is reprinted here on Pages 6-9.) A note of urgency then marked the letter of President Tom J. Davis was sent to all Rotary Club presidents in the United States. By authorization of the Canadian Advisory Committee, a similar letter, signed by the President and counter-signed by Third Vice-President Arthur FitzGerald (*Canada*), was sent to the clubs in Canada. It was a request that each Club stage a “China Day” program at its next meeting, or at its second next, at the latest.

When President Tom called on all Rotary clubs in the United States and Canada to observe a special “China Day” program, it was a challenge to the imagination of the clubs that was wholeheartedly met with practically unanimous enthusiasm. The suggestion fell upon ready soil. In the next two weeks hundreds, yes, thousands, of Rotary clubs throughout North America had “China Day” programs---original, enthusiastic, instructive ones, etc. This whole-hearted response showed that North American Rotarians generally bear a deep respect for the Chinese people---and wanted to let them know it.

Letters, newspaper clippings and bulletins were received at the Rotary International Secretariat from all over 1,200 clubs. The newspaper and radio publicity was wide-spread. President Tom J. Davis personally made two 30-minute broadcasts. A prominent commentator of the National Broadcasting Company, U.S.A., in a radio broadcast, called attention to this initiative of Rotary. The Associated Press and the United Press sent out 500-word stories on the activity. The Central China News Agency (中央通訊社) at Washington, D.C., transmitted information about “China Day” in the Rotary clubs to China by short wave.



Sun Yat-Sen, founding father of the Republic of China, appears with Abraham Lincoln on a 1942 US stamp. Sun Yat-Sen's "Three Principles" (三民主義) (Nationalism, Democracy, and People's Livelihood) reflect a concept he admired from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: "Of the people, by the people, and for the people".



1942 -- A Chinese soldier guards a line of American P-40 fighter planes, painted with the shark-face emblem of the "Flying Tigers," at a flying field in China. The American pursuit planes had a 12 to 1 victory ratio over the Japanese. (Photo by © CORBIS/Corbis via Getty Images)

The “China Day” programs made a great many men interested in trying to build a better world. Reports were pouring in from clubs, of which these were typical examples:

- At the Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, a Chinese laundryman Yee Hong was a special guest at a program whose speaker, F. G. Hardenbrook, was in China during the opening of the War.
- The Rotary Club of Cleveland, Ohio, entertained prominent local Chinese citizens and visitors and showed motion pictures of the war in China. It also heard Dr. Ernest H. Wilkins, president of Oberlin College, trace the history of China in the last 25 years.
- That China was the greatest actual and potential ally of the United States was the opinion expressed to the Rotary Club of Kearney, Nebraska, by Dr. J. W. Creighton, president of Hastings College and for 21 years a missionary and teacher in China.
- Rotarians of Huntington Park, California, heard T. M. Elliott told of his experiences in Amoy (*Xiamen*) (廈門), China, where he lived and worked.
- Resolutions of friendship for China were passed by the Marlin Rotary Club, Texas, and forwarded to Senator Tom Connally, a member of the Club, and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The Chinese Vice-Consul from Houston, Texas, and his wife, and the Governor of Texas, Rotarian Coke Stevenson, were guests.
- The Rotary Club of Winchester, Massachusetts, considered that was the time when they had so great admiration for the heroic and prolonged resistance of China to her Japanese aggressors. It was very much worthwhile for the Club to make due recognition of the patriotism, valor and self-sacrifice exerted by the great nation of the Orient. Guest speaker at a regular meeting was Mr. Albert Lee who was an American Chinese residing in Boston. In his address he explained to the Club the reactions of the Chinese government and people to the War which had been carried on for four and a half years and was later included into the World War II. He took occasion to reiterate the statement that China had a wealth of manpower to carry on the War but was dependent on other friendly nations to provide the modern armament without which success for her troops was unattainable. Also Mr. Lee made the point that the Oriental peoples, including the Chinese, who had observed or were experiencing the hostile attitude of the Japanese naturally exert whatsoever resistance was within their power and would continue to do so with ever increasing effect.

These programs were a cross section of literally thousands of Rotary “China Day” programs held during the month of February in 1942. In appreciation, The Rotary Club of Chungking (重慶扶輪社), Republic of China, sent a radiogram to Rotary International on 19 February 1942:

Chungking Rotary Club expresses hearty thanks and appreciation for your encouragement of the Chinese government and people in the common struggle against aggression, by sponsoring China Day programs throughout the United States and Canada. – Peter Kiang, President

“China Day” showed something else, too: that Rotary clubs can act swiftly and in concert, even on short notice. That may be worth remembering. This is a real and lively example of “advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship”.

Republican China’s Ambassador to the United States Dr. Hu Shih (胡適博士) telegraphed from Washington to Rotary International in Chicago:

I wish personally and on behalf of the Chinese people in express deep appreciation for international Rotary China Day programs as inspiring contribution to unity of United Nations. It is in such spirit of unity and comradeship that we shall march forth to complete and final triumph.

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About Tom J. Davis



Tom J. Davis, Rotary Club of Butte, Montana, U.S.A.



31st President, Rotary International 1941-1942

Tom J. Davis was Counsel in Montana for Safeway Stores, F. W. Woolworth Company, Soo Line Railway, Northwestern Mutual Fire Association, Northwest Casualty Company, and for other business and industrial corporations. He was born in Weir City, Kansas, was graduated from the University of Michigan Law School, and had twice been honored with degrees of Doctor of Laws.

Tom had been a member of the Rotary Club of Butte since 1915, and was a Past President of that Club. He had been active in Rotary International as President (1941-1942), Vice-President, District Governor, Rotary Foundation Trustee, and as chairman and member of numerous committees. In 1945, he was one of Rotary International's consultants to the United States delegation at the United Nations Conference on International Organization.

Among the many offices held by Tom in community, state, and national organizations were the following: member of the Executive Committee, Montana State School of Mines; member of the Board of Trustees of Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon, and of Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Montana; member, Regional Executive Committee, National Council, Boy Scouts of America; Director, Butte Chamber of Commerce; Director, Butte Y.M.C.A.; Chairman, Salvation Army Advisory Board of Butte; Director, Butte Boy Scouts Council; President, Northwest Society for Crippled Children; President Montana Society for Crippled Children; Director, Montana Children's home and Hospital.

Tom was a Past President of the Montana State Bar Association and was a former member of the President's Loyalty Review Board of the United States Civil Service Commission. He was the holder of the Honorary Legion of Honor conferred by DeMolay, and the International Service Cross of the Salvation Army.

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About Hu Shih (胡適)



Charter President of The Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社創社社長), Sir William Hornell (康寧爵士), Kt, CIE, *HonLLD (HKU)*, MA (*Oxford*), Vice-Chancellor of the Hong Kong University (香港大學校長) wrote and delivered the following citation during the 26th Congregation (1935) of The University of Hong Kong where Hu Shih was conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*):.

Dr. Hu Shih needs no introduction. He is the father of the literary renaissance in China. The full significance of this movement History will in time recall. In the annals of his country's history Dr. Hu Shih's name has already been written in ink that will not fade. If the future of China is, as I believe it to be, one of the world problems of today, then surely this University will go down in posterity for the honour it is today conferring on one of the living forces of a changing China.

But this University has a more immediate cause for gratitude to Dr. Hu Shih, for he has helped and is helping us to organize our Chinese studies on the right lines. We have often been reminded that Hong Kong is not China and upbraided for being foolish as to believe that any serious student would come here to study Chinese. Our reply is to refer to the preamble of our Ordinance and to insist that this University, being more than a technical or professional college, cannot and will not ignore the culture of the great country to which the majority of its students belong. Dr. Hu Shih's presence here today is a testimony to his conviction that this University can and will play its part, however humble, in the cultural rebirth of China.

Dr. Hu Shih (17 December 1891, Shanghai - 24 February 1962, Taiwan), was a Chinese philosopher, essayist and diplomat. Hu is widely recognized today as a key contributor to Chinese liberalism and language reform in his advocacy as an important leader of Chinese thought who helped establish the vernacular as the official written language (1922). He was also an influential propagator of American pragmatic methodology as well as the foremost political liberal in Republican China (1912–1949), advocating building a new country not through political revolution but through mass Chinese education.

He was influential in the May Fourth Movement (五四運動) (1919), one of the leaders of China's New Culture Movement, and in 1939 was nominated for a Nobel Prize in literature. He was a president of Peking University (北京大學) (1946-1948). He had a wide range of interests such as literature, history, textual criticism, and pedagogy. He was also an influential redology scholar and held the famous Jiayu manuscript of 《Dream of the Red Chamber》 (《紅樓夢》甲戌本) for many years until his death.

My Fellow Rotarians —

By **Tom J. Davis**

President, Rotary International

BUTTE, MONTANA
December 23, 1941

LESS THAN 24 hours ago Hester and I looked out of the windows of a plane sweeping in over the Butte airfield, and we saw below us the pattern of our home town. We were *home*—home after an 8,000-mile Rotary trip to 11 Latin-American countries. Never have we been greeted with such warmth, such hospitality, with such manifestations of the reality of Rotary. We feel humble about it all. For it was not to greet Tom Davis and his wife that Rotarians of all these lands below the Rio Grande tumbled out of their beds at unreasonable early-morning hours, journeyed to airports, called special meetings, and poured forth without stint their choicest expressions of friendship. It was for Rotary—a Rotary that overnight took on newly significant meanings as headlines and radio reports told of new perils, new challenges.

But now we are home, and I am sure that patriots of all lands will know how I feel as I recall those lines from Scott:

Breathes there the man with soul so dead

*Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne'er within him
burn'd*

*As home his footsteps he hath turn'd
From wandering on a foreign strand?*

Patriotism always has been next to religion for me. Today, as I write these lines, that word is more than a word. It is a passion. Sharing more intimately their experience, I now better understand my friends whom I visited over in embattled Britain but a few weeks ago, and in my heart I have a new understanding for thousands upon thousands of my Rotary comrades scattered around the world.

"Rotary expects every Rotarian to live up to his full obligation as a citizen." How often we have said these words. How clear their importance now becomes to thou-

sands more of us. How reassuring it is to realize that in discharging our obligations to our respective countries, we are doing what Rotary expects of us. How prophetic and farseeing were the words of our late President John Nelson, of Canada, when in *THE ROTARIAN* for November, 1933, he wrote:

A sane, sturdy patriotism is not inconsistent with Rotary principles. It is, instead, the very basis of Rotary's Sixth Object,* namely, international goodwill. Rotary . . . does not supersede patriotism. It rather tends to stimulate it.

Today, Rotary is not the Rotary of 1933. Then we had Clubs in Germany, Italy, and Japan, as well as in other countries where they have ceased to exist. Today most of the countries having Rotary Clubs have entered World War II, and on the side of democracy.

Rotary International has consistently realized that it should not, indeed it could not, tell any country what should be its national policy, what course it should take. But I would remind you that at Havana we adopted a resolution titled "Rotary Amid World Conflict" which declared in part:

. . . Rotary is based on the ideal of service, and where freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights do not exist, Rotary cannot live nor its ideal prevail. These principles, which are indispensable to Rotary, are vital to the maintenance of international peace and order and to human progress.

In countries where Rotary Clubs operate freely, obviously the requisite conditions obtain. And it of course follows from the Havana resolution that Rotary International, the organization, has no desire for or interest in interfering with forms of government in such countries.

As a Rotarian, I should be ever mindful of my fellow Rotarians in occupied countries, in countries which circumstances compel to re-

* In 1935 the Sixth Object became the Fourth Object. It reads: "[. . . to encourage and foster] The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service."

A letter from your President giving ample answer to the question: 'What can Rotary do in a world at war?'

main neutral, in countries which have not yet reached their decision as to joining in the world conflict. In all such countries, my fellow Rotarians must, as good citizens, conform to national policies and decisions. And just as I have regarded as improper the well-intentioned efforts of Rotarians in other lands to use Rotary to force a decision from my Government favorable to theirs, so must I guard against similar action on my part now that my country is a belligerent. It is sufficient to know that Rotarians of all lands are united in fellowship and ideals.

Our Governments will tell us what is expected of us as loyal, patriotic citizens . . . though the Rotarian who makes crankshafts, airplanes, or gunpowder, or who raises cotton, wool, or wheat already fully comprehends where his greatest opportunity for national service lies. But what does "national service" mean when applied to a Rotary Club?

National service is, in reality, often but an extension of and an intensification of what we have long called Community Service. For example, here is a Rotary Club which, in kinder times, had as a continuing "project" the beautification of its community. It bordered a mile of streets with trees. It gave the city a park.

THAT was Community Service. Today the same Club is recruiting air-raid wardens for the defense of its city—"to preserve what we've got." This, too, is Community Service, but so intimately is it linked with national fortune that we can call it national service.

Our Rotary fellows in countries long at war have shown how often and in what diverse ways Rotary Clubs can give helpful patriotic service to their communities, and you have read about these in the *Rotary Reporter* section of *THE ROTARIAN*. (Rotary's Central Office in Chicago has several excellent papers suggesting others—all



IN QUITO, Ecuador, President Davis helps lay the cornerstone for a children's hospital ward. . . . And at Curaçao, Netherlands West Indies (right), talks to the Club.

free for the asking.*) Recall these:

Somehow, the little Rotary Club of Sale, down in Southwestern Australia, learned that military hospitals were in urgent need of medical cupboards and splints . . . so the 20 members "took over" a Rotarian's carpentry shop for a few evenings, jerked off their coats and neckties, and shot 150 cases and 50 splints down the line.

Sale's big neighbor to the east, Adelaide, knows something about national service, too. Just one detail of its program is its Business Guidance Committee — which includes all 124 Adelaide Rotarians. For two years, now, that Committee has been giving free and expert business counsel to the wives and sons of soldiers and sailors who are trying to carry on the family enterprise where Dad left off when his call came. In Springs, South Africa, a Rotary bureau gives the same kind of counsel. Here, Vocational Service becomes national service.

A spot of tea or coffee and some sweets go a long way with a tired fighting man. Down at the docks in Bombay, India, as in scores of other cities the world around, he has but to amble over to the Ro-

tary mobile canteen — to help himself to plenty of the same. In Batavia, Netherlands Indies, Rotarians have dug deep into their pockets for suffering humanity, on the one hand, and for more bombers, on the other. Rotarians, too, can be realistic.

The men in the services are young men—and a mere mention of that is a reminder of Rotary's abiding interest in Youth Service. That can be adapted to the new problem. We can help keep "the boys" supplied with magazines, "smokes," home-town newspapers. We can have them out to dinner in our homes or in our Rotary Clubs—if there's a camp near.

IF WE HAVE no local camp, we can take a page from the Rotary Club of Clayton, Missouri, and fête each new "batch" of selective servicemen leaving for camp at a Club luncheon and then see them off at the railroad station. Princeton, Missouri, Rotarians get the names of all selectees from the local Selective Service Board. Each member "adopts" one or more of these local sons, sends him holiday gifts, drops him an occasional note, keeps him in touch with the old home town—for which he has probably discovered a new and nostalgic yearn-

ing. We can stage dances, provide comfortable inexpensive sleeping quarters for men on leave, make certain they have recreation rooms in our community. Inexhaustible is the list of what Rotary Clubs can do for the boys in uniform. And when I suggest such activities, I merely echo what dozens of Clubs have already done. . . . to keep that vital element, soldier morale, in A-1 condition.

Look to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, to which Rotary shall go in June for its 1942 Convention, for



yet another example of how Rotary Youth Service directly becomes national service. There the Rotary Club sponsors a Youth Training Corps—some 400 lads from 16 to 19 who receive physical conditioning and military training which will fit them splendidly for regular military service when their hour comes. The Corps is affiliated with the 48th Highlanders of Canada, and its success augurs the formation of similar youth training corps throughout the northern nation.

This is not to say, by any means, that all the old forms of Rotary service need adaptation. Not at all. We must keep at them . . . every one of them . . . hard. Our Crippled-Children Work, our student loans, our fresh-air camps, our Scout troops, our trade-associations work—all must go on, even more intensively than ever. For they help to make strong communities—and strong communities make strong nations. If Ro-

* *My Job and National Defense*, No. 508; *Rotary Clubs and National Defense*, No. 603; *Service to Servicemen*, No. 653; *Youth and National Defense*, No. 652; *Building Community Morale*, No. 601.

tary Clubs have worked closely with, say, societies for crippled children in years past—and I am proud to say they have—how much more zealous should their efforts now be. If Rotarians have given a willing hand to the Red Cross, the Y.M.C.A., 4-H Club boys and girls, the youths in Junior Achievement companies — how much greater is the need for that very service now. For we are building not for today, not for some immediate tomorrow, but for the ages of peace which we swear shall bless our children's children and their children. We must watch our boys and girls, counsel them in work most useful. The lack of an adequate apprenticeship program recently hit manufacturers and tradesmen of my country hard. Rotarians may find opportunity for service here.

Rotary Clubs are autonomous bodies, within the Constitution of Rotary International. They may choose their own forms of service . . . may execute them largely as

stations to homes. . . . They provide mobile canteens, ambulances, war planes, X-ray units. . . . They establish and maintain rest houses. . . . Donate new and old radio sets and phonographs to camps and anti-aircraft batteries. . . . Collect old gold and silver trinkets for conversion to war funds. . . . Volunteer their blood for the vitally needed "blood banks." . . . Entertain soldiers and sailors and airmen from all parts of the Empire stationed in Britain. . . . Equip military huts with furniture, literature. . . . Give shoes and clothing for "bombed out" citizens. . . . Supply manpower for virtually every kind of British activity—roof-top watchers, fire wardens, home guards, and all the rest. And all this is but a beginning of the list.

As did these Britons, the Canadians, the Australians, and all the others before them, my fellow Americans, I am told, accepted this greatly unwanted war calmly. These are *not* times for hysterics.

As a Rotarian, as a Rotary Club, look at your situation fairly, squarely—as I saw Britons doing. Keep it in mind that your Club is a cross section of the men of your community. An organization ready for action. A band of community leaders, ready for work on virtually any job—gifted for the responsible jobs, but not above the drudgery.

NOT the least important fact of a Rotary Club's natural contribution to a nation at war is that its members meet each week, and eat and, yes, sing together. And, by the way, let's keep on singing!

That is Club Service . . . but it's important to civilian morale. Great Britain had been at war only a few months when a member of the Rotary Club of Cheshunt and Waltham Abbey wrote:

Although there has been no spoken admission of the fact, there is an indefinable something in the atmosphere of our Club these days, suggesting that the fellows find it a haven from the stress and strain of wartime demands upon the individual. To employ a crude simile, our meetings resemble a luxurious armchair into which a tired being is glad to place himself and relax for a while. Warm fellowship is evident, and each meeting serves to refresh us for the duties ahead. We are young in Rotary, but already we have tasted its benefits. It must not, however, be taken that we are just lazing along, unmindful of the useful tasks our Club can tackle. Indeed, we can claim to have borne a share. . . .

If Rotary meant that much to British Rotarians at the onset of the war, [Continued on page 55]



A FESTIVE DINNER, marked by the presence of many distinguished guests, honors Rotary's President and his lady at Medellin, Colombia. . . . At Maracaibo, Venezuela, Mario Belloso, Governor of the 44th District, and his wife entertain the Davises at their splendid home in the suburbs (right).

they see fit. Answering the challenge of national service, their ingenuity and sincerity will discover countless opportunities to them. I call your attention to what Clubs in Great Britain are doing.

They "adopt" minesweepers and other vessels, providing the crews with tobacco, sweets, books, games, magazines. . . . They operate "night transport" services to enable men on leave to get from



My Fellow Rotarians—

[Continued from page 9]

I can bring personal testimony that it means double that now. For Rotary in Britain, as I saw it, is a pool of resourceful, untiring builders into which cities, hamlets, and the Government are dipping every day.

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has 486 Clubs and has added five since Britain entered the war. The Rotary pulse has quickened on both the tight little isle and on the Emerald Isle. You will recall that my good friend and predecessor, Armando de Arruda Pereira, of Brazil, called in his inaugural for *More Clubs . . . More Friends!* And he got them—in his own Ibero-America, in North America, even in embattled Britain. Though our jobs, our community efforts, though everything presses, let us not slight extension now. Let me add just four words to Past President Pereira's challenge: "More Clubs . . . More Friends . . . More Hands . . . More Hope."

I'm old enough to remember stories of the Spanish-American War . . . and I recall the indignation provoked by reports that manufacturers were shoeing our Army with paper soles, that meat packers were sending it canned rotten beef. The profiteer and the chiseller were not unknown in World War I. Will they be known in World War II—as national Governments go into the largest piece of buying the world has ever known? Thousands of Rotarians can help keep standards of business conduct high, can act as good leaven. There's Vocational Service brought significantly down to earth—and pointed directly at national service.

I swing back to our Havana Declaration, "Rotary Amid World Conflict"—our ideal in words. Let me repeat it:

". . . Rotary is based on the ideal of service, and where freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights do not exist,

Rotary cannot live nor its ideal prevail. These principles, which are indispensable to Rotary, are vital to the maintenance of international peace and order and to human progress."

That's the basis of it all. We envisage a world, not in conflict, where the rights of man are respected. That looks ahead a long way, you say? True. But peace will come! Will we be ready for it?

Rotary has its Committee on Research As to Participation of Rotarians in Post-War World Reconstruction — which wants *your* views. It is not academic to think ahead. One trouble in 1918-1920 was that too many of us were hating the enemy; too few of us had thought ahead—far enough. Planning this saner, kinder world is the ultimate task. And I hope many Rotary Clubs the world over can find time for thoughtful discussion of the seven questions sent to all Club Presidents. If you haven't read them, look up *A Job for Rotarians* in THE ROTARIAN for January, 1942. May I suggest that the series of articles current in THE ROTARIAN under the heading "A World to LIVE IN" will "spark" your study and your conversation.

. . . Yes, Hester and I are happy to be home again, though it be strangely changed. Our hearts are light when we think of the rich and warm friendships made on our all-too-short trip to Latin America. What a friendly crowd! Memories of them will linger long. The flower of Rotary is fellowship, and nowhere is the bloom of a richer hue than in lands to the south of my own.

From my office window I look out over my home town. . . . It is a mining town, and some people think it is not beautiful. But I love it, and, loving it and my country, I the better understand the affection Rotarians in all lands bear for theirs. No price is too great to pay for the preservation of what we hold so dear. That is a common bond among Rotarians everywhere.

So is our fellowship. Though cables that bind nations together wear thin, let us keep Rotary—what Sir Harry Lauder called "the golden strand"—intact. Some day, when the world is ready to be restored to sanity, it will be needed sorely. Some day the world will realize that *civilization can continue only as nations learn how to live together in peace*. Rotary, with its fellowship among men of varying beliefs and customs, will have shown the way.

Meanwhile, we are called upon as citizens of our various countries to rise to new responsibilities. Patriotism makes unequal demands: from some it calls for little out of the daily routine, from others it requires courageous action, even the supreme sacrifice. But whatever it is the well-being of our country asks of us, let us be ready. To be a good Rotarian is to be a good citizen and patriot.

Rotary Today

By Tom J. Davis

President, Rotary International

The President transmits two statements adopted by the Board of Directors at its recent meeting in Chicago.

ROTARIANS are realists as well as idealists. The hundreds of letters which I as President of Rotary International am privileged to receive, attest that fact. So, I believe, do two statements unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors of Rotary International at its recent meeting. Both of these statements will be reviewed by the coming Rotary Convention at Toronto next June and in fact one of them is proposed by the Board as a Resolution for adoption by the Convention. Without attempting to prejudge any action by the Convention, I feel that the importance of these statements warrants bringing them to the attention of all Rotarians now.

The first statement, as adopted by the Board, amplifies and extends the famous pronouncement, *Rotary Amid World Conflict*, adopted at the Havana Convention in 1940, and reads as follows:

Rotary and a World at War

The membership of Rotary International consists of Rotary Clubs. These Clubs are autonomous within the limits of the Constitution and By-Laws. The Clubs of Rotary International are composed of individual members with qualifications set forth in the Constitution. The basic principle upon which Rotary is built is service rendered by Rotary Clubs through the activity of their individual members.

The Board maintains its conviction that the full attainment of the Rotary ideal, "Service," can only be achieved in countries where there is liberty of the individual, in freedom of thought, speech, and assembly, freedom of worship, freedom from persecution and aggression, and freedom from want and fear. Where this liberty does not exist Rotary cannot live.

The Board of Directors of Rotary International emphasizes the belief that every Rotarian will be a loyal and serving citizen of his own country and that as such he will do everything within his power to bring this war to a speedy end.

Rotarians the world over are urged to prepare themselves and the people of the communities in which they live to do their part in helping to build a post-war world reconstruction program free from persecution and revenge.

In this statement the Board has attempted to set down what Rotary Clubs and Rotarians believe. It is clear, it is definite, it is forthright.

However, in our fellowship it has been frequently said that Rotary is not merely a state of mind—that he who serves must act; and that Rotary undertakes to inspire men to realize fully their individual capacity for patriotic citizenship in their states and nations.

Thus we come to the second statement, in the form of a resolution similar to one adopted by Rotary International during the first World War. It pertains to applying Rotary's Ideal of Service—more specifically what we term Community Service—to the new opportunities created by war. Ever since July, 1937, when hostilities broke out in China, an increasing number of Clubs have been discovering outlets for patriotism [see page 46]. To encourage them and provide them with helpful coöperation the Board proposes action as follows:

Clubs in National Service

Whereas in the present disturbed, unsettled, or belligerent condition of all countries in which there are Rotary Clubs it is advisable to encourage patriotic service by Rotarians and Rotary Clubs wherever they may be located,

And whereas the Clubs of all countries are looking to the central organization of Rotary International for coöperation and leadership in their patriotic work,

It is resolved by Rotary International, assembled in its 33rd annual Convention, that in the conduct of the affairs of this organization, its officers, in addition to their general service to all Rotary Clubs as individual Clubs, shall be permitted and expected to make themselves of service in particular to the member Clubs in any nation, such service to be rendered at such time and in such manner as may be approved by the Board of Directors of Rotary International, and providing further that the spirit of such service to the member Clubs may

be reflected in the editorial conduct of the organization's official publication, and

It is further resolved that during the present emergency the Secretariat of Rotary International with the approval of the President shall respond to calls for service as a clearinghouse or center of communication for the Clubs of each nation in which there are Rotary Clubs when it seems advisable to do so in conformity with the wishes of the Clubs or their Governments or recognized quasi-official organizations.

The Board agrees that in the interim between the January, 1942, Board meeting and the 1942 Convention, the officers of Rotary International and international Secretariat shall function in matters of national service in harmony with the provisions of the foregoing Proposed Resolution.

I call special attention to the concluding paragraph of the foregoing statement for it provides *immediately* for a clearinghouse of information and help for Rotary Clubs engaging in "national service" activities.

AND now may I refer back to the final paragraph of the first statement, *Rotary and a World at War*. It not only deals realistically with present conditions, but it looks forward to that post-war day when Rotary will be needed even more than now. Then our entire world will be in an unhappy plight comparable to that of my own country when at the close of its great civil war the immortal Lincoln declared:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

There is a time to fight for home and heritage, for ideals and traditions, and common decency—and that time is now. But the time will come when our task will be to construct a peaceful and enduring world order.