The Daughters of the American Revolution

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Mrs. _____ & ___, distinguished guests, members of the Daughters of the Am. Revolution —

It is entirely fitting and proper that a patriotic organization of women, such as the D.A.R., should take the leadership in focusing attention upon the sesquicentennial celebration of the formation of the Constitution of the United States, and congratulations are certainly due today to the Baton Rouge chapter, because I believe that this Washington dinner and the ceremonies that you have planned to follow it will mark the first Baton Rouge program in a long calendar of events which will be held in recognition and observance of the historic fact of the formation of the Constitution.
The Daughters of the American Revolution since its organization in 1890, have steadfastly and successfully carried out the high ideals and objects expressed in their charter - those ideals and objects, as you all know, are: to perpetuate the memory of the spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence; to promote institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge; to cherish, maintain, and extend the institution of American freedom; to foster true patriotism and love of country; and to aid in securing for mankind all of the blessings of liberty.

In these days of social, economic and political unrest there is much comfort to Americans in thinking back over the 150 years through which our Constitution -
"the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man" has endured. Through previousturmoils, our Constitution has always been the bedrock upon which the principles of American freedom and American democracy have been anchored. With the enlightened support of the hundred million Americans who have faith in the American way of life -- the principles expressed in that immortal document, purchased with the blood of American patriots and achieved under the leadership of Washington -- that Constitution will continue through any future tempests that may beset our paths.

With the assistance of our genial and scholarly founder of "the Live Oak Society", Dr. Stephens, and
with the cooperation of President Smith, you have planned to plant a memorial avenue of trees along Dalrymple Drive leading to the University. To me, there is something quite symbolic of the Constitution in the oak. Its broad spreading branches signify the adaptability of the Constitution to the needs of different times and different conditions. The strength and durability of the oak and its great longevity are characteristics which the Fathers sought to build within the framework of our Constitution. And, just as the oak is peculiarly insusceptible to the decaying influence of moisture—so may our Constitution with the united support of all Americans and with the support that it received from patriotic groups of women such
as are gathered here today — may that Constitution like a sturdy oak successfully resist all attacks and pernicious influences that might seek to undermine the basic principles of American liberty.

In conclusion, I wish to say that it is a particular pleasure to meet with you on this occasion and I wish to add my word to what Dr. Smith has already said in assuring you that the Louisiana State University is always anxious, willing and ready to cooperate with the Daughters of the American Revolution in their every endeavor.