

arrest." We are regarded as the most lawless people in the world. It is said that Oswald Spengler, a great German historian, referred to us as a "lawless band of migratory criminals." Judge Taft said, many years ago, that the "administration of the criminal laws in the United States was a disgrace to civilization."

The ambition of politicians with their rumbling laughter and affected smiles, the usurpations of political powers, and exercise of unlawful authority and steadily increasing invasion upon the powers of the sovereign states make fertile soil in which the seeds of suspicion, distrust, social unrest, resentment and crime quickly germinate.

It is time that we, through our civic organizations, local clubs, fraternal societies, school organizations and churches, should awaken the spirit of the old South that General Lee wanted to preserve and hand on to coming generations—the spirit that will urge us to protest in an intellectual and parliamentary way against further encroachments of the federal power upon the right of the sovereign states and their people. If our Constitution in its present form is inadequate to serve the ends of government, then let it be changed by amendment or the adoption of a new one, but, in Heaven's name, not by usurpation.

Lincoln said: "It is my duty and my oath to maintain inviolate the right of the states to order and control under the Constitution their own affairs by their own judgment exclusively."

Washington said: "If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation, for this, though it may in one instance be the instrument of good, is the ordinary weapon by which free governments are destroyed."

If we love our Government and our country, let us follow the commandments of our Constitution.

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The Spirit of Americanism

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Address by

WILLIAM H. ELLIS
Justice Supreme Court of Florida

Before

The Civitan Club
Jacksonville, Florida

Confederate Memorial Day
1935



AMERICAN LIBERTY LEAGUE
National Headquarters
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