Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

I feel signally honored as a citizen of the great State of Ohio, in being privileged to be present and participate modestly on this auspicious occasion. While vacationing in this state of marvelous wonders, and amazing industrial developments—drinking golden sunshine, although your state is dry; breathing salt-laden breezes—I received an invitation from the Cincinnati University to represent it, at this symposium. As I look into your faces it seems to me that I may rightfully claim that Ohio sent from its ranks, or rather they rushed here on their own volition, a few of her ambitious children. I recall that President Harding of my home city of Marion, Ohio, and his charming and gifted wife, were during his final illness the objects of your sweet service and devotion. It was in this great city that the Silent Scaper kissed him to sleep, and he now lies with her whom he truly loved and adored, beneath a matchless marble sarcophagus, which has now become a shrine where millions of our people have come to pay just tribute to one who gave his life in selfless and loving service to his country as Senator and President.

If I were gifted with eloquent speech like unto Warren G. Harding, my fellow townsmen, I might do the subject assigned me justice. After 16 years of struggle and effort against the opposition of some of your prominent citizens, the Golden Gate Bridge will, within a few years, become an actuality and the hopes and dreams of those who sponsored it will come true. I understand that this great bridge will be the longest and highest that has ever been erected, and that it receives its very appropriate name because it wedges the points of land where your justly celebrated bay joins the smiling Pacific. May I not pause and state that when it is completed it will be a masterpiece of art and stateliness grandeur. You are to be congratulated upon your spirit and faith in moving ahead and daring to spend the money in making possible this splendid structure. My felicitations are extended alike to those who originated and conceived that this great bridge was practical, useful and expressly called for and demanded by the indomitable and ever conquering spirit of this progressive and impetuous city. These felicitations are given cheerfully to other counties who joined you in a spirit of civic pride and who rejoice with you because of their help and interest in making possible this project.

I am imbued with the thought the really notable and praiseworthy spirit is characteristic of this great metropolis and its neighbors.

It has gained deserved renown and has received the praise and best wishes of many other great cities and communities. They greatly admire and perhaps envy your grim and granite spirit which has marched steadily ahead, despite gloom and depression in the carrying out and the building of the objects of their supreme desire. When the people of this land came to understand the obstacles encountered, the difficulties subdued and the battles which were compelled to be fought to bring about the realization of this majestic and wondrous enterprise, they will admire your courage and your zeal and catch the vibrant enthusiasm and no-surrender spirit, which has marked and signalized the efforts of those who have had direct charge of this monumental undertaking.

I feel assured that those who criticize and those who attempted to obstruct and interfere with the development and progress of this stupendous undertaking, will join the great majority who have patiently, cheerfully and dauntlessly fought these battles through to triumph.
As the official representative of Cincinnati University, and enthused with the fine spirit of appreciation of the great city of Cincinnati, it gives me extreme pleasure to speak of the honorable Joseph B. Straus, who many years ago conceived the possibility, practicality, and utility of this great structure. It became his absorbing thought and passion; the fondest objects of his dreams. Notwithstanding the fact that he has gained world-wide celebrity in planning and directing the construction of more than 400 bridges, he has been stirred to the depth of his deeper soul and has given his great creative genius to the building of this bridge. So deeply interested has he become in this great enterprise, that as in Ohio are about to conclude that he will make this city and state his home. I am sure that when you become intimately acquainted and come to know this modest, selfless gentleman, he will attract you by his gentleness, his fairness, and his all-consuming desire to work with you in harmony and accord.

I was in Cincinnati in June, 1930, attending the Commencement exercises when there was conferred upon the Chief Engineer of the Golden Gate Bridge, the honorable and distinctive degree of Doctor of Science. I recall that this great University was most happy on this occasion and that the hearts of her students and alumni appreciate and feel the honor and distinction of their great son on this occasion. As he and his associates enjoy this banquet tonight and are the recipients of your gracious favor and the just reward of passionate devotion to duty and supreme and successful accomplishment, I seem to feel that the prideful hearts of the citizens of his native city, from whence he arose from humbleness to distinction, are rejoicing with you that her gifted son has, by toil and struggle, assisted by his native talent, bestowed upon the city and his Alma Mater many signal honors.

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies, and Gentlemen, I pause to speak of one you loved so well and still remember and revere. He was your representative in the Congress of the United States when your beautiful city was almost destroyed by consuming flames. When the news of this disaster reached him, he came to the house in deepest concern and anguish. His fellow members were touched deeply by his sorrow and did everything possible to assure his grief. I recall that he finally exclaimed "I know San Francisco and her people at home and notwithstanding her people have lost their homes and savings, they yet possess the spirit of their beloved city." He turned away for a moment to hide his tears and exclaimed again "San Francisco will rise again from the ashes of this disaster greater and grander than before." Julius Kahn has passed on and his prophecies has been more than fulfilled. It was only fitting and proper that you should honor his faithful and devoted companion and helper, his good wife, who is now one of your distinguished members in the National House of Representatives.

I have come to appreciate and love the spirit of optimism prevalent in this metropolis. The people have a face which smiles through gloom; a spirit dauntless and daring, and zeal and devotion which arouse and bestir your people to move forward and fulfill your destiny. The construction and completion of the Golden Gate Bridge will prove of inestimable worth and value to the world, and redound to your credit and glory. This is a crowning, artful and magnificent tribute to the spirit and enterprise of San Francisco and those who are associated with you.