

## Lindbergh Vs. Freedom.

IT speaks volumes for the tolerance of Oklahomans that the so-called Lindbergh "rally" at the State's capital Friday night was attended by only a small disturbance, and that created not by those whom Mr. Lindbergh and Senator Wheeler have denounced as opponents of the sort of free speech with which they regularly affront both the good sense and the patriotism of Americans everywhere. The only speaker who was "booed down" at the meeting was an Oklahoma veteran of the Nation's armed service who, being invited to the platform by the meeting's chairman, undertook to reply to some of the pro-Nazi utterances of the Nazi-bemedalled flier who now sets himself up as director of the destinies of the American people. In Oklahoma, as in other States, there are a few of the same kind of Americans who at Valley Forge gave only counsel of defeat and appeasement to George Washington, and it was these who shouted down the Oklahoma veteran, who, it must be admitted, had at least as much right to be heard on the side of loyalty and right-thinking as Lindbergh and Wheeler had to be heard on the side of disloyalty and evil.

For the freedom they enjoy today—for the very liberties which enable Lindbergh and Wheeler to go about the country speaking their minds, as at Oklahoma City—Americans can thank the fact that in all the great periods of crisis in this Republic's struggles timid counsels and defeatism, although they have been present, have not yet prevailed against the courage and loyalty of Americans. If the Lindberghs and Wheelers of that day had had their way, Washington would have given up under the ordeal of Valley Forge, and there never would have been a Yorktown and the glorious assurance of this continent's freedom. If old Sam Houston had heeded the advice of the Lindberghs and Wheelers of 1836 on that heart-breaking retreat before the overwhelming power of Santa Ana, the day of San Jacinto would never have dawned and the heroic epic of Texas independence would never have been written.

The unconquerable spirit that is in free men prevailed in those days and the defeatists and appeasers are remembered only with shame. Today America's crisis is of this historical pattern, and today courage and patriotism, the sure knowledge that liberty is more greatly to be desired than life itself, will prevail despite the Lindberghs and Wheelers and all the weak-kneed or disloyal Americans who profess to believe that Hitler's war against liberty is of no concern to us and that we could accommodate ourselves to living in the same world with Hitler victorious.

Far from the "intolerance" which they charge is being displayed toward them, the Lindberghs and Wheelers are the beneficiaries of the almost superhuman patience of the American people and their constituted leaders. Whether one agrees politically with the policies of President Roosevelt is beside the question. All must admit that he is not using the powers of the Federal Government to smother dissent even when that dissent approaches the bounds of subversiveness. Instead he is using all the energy, tact and patience he can bring to bear upon the tremendous task of assuring a strong national defense and behind it a strong and unified people. And every logical American must realize that whether the President is a member of this or that party, or holds this or that view, he is the Commander-in-chief of the Nation and so must continue throughout the present crisis in which a distinction between loyalty to the Nation and loyalty to its leaders can not safely be drawn.

It is a question how far the right of free speech in time of national crisis may