

time in 1923, at the height of the debate over Prohibition, Congressman William D. Upshaw of Georgia, a fierce dry, denounced Maryland as a traitor to the Union because it had refused to pass a State enforcement act. Mr. Owens thereupon wrote a mock-serious editorial entitled "The Maryland Free State," arguing that Maryland should really secede from the Union and go it alone. The irony in this editorial was somewhat finely spun, and on second thought Mr. Owens decided not to print it, but the idea stuck in his mind, and in a little while he began to use it in other editorials. The nickname caught on quickly, and the term "Free State" is heard almost as frequently as "Old Line State." See Frank R. Kent and others, *The Sunpapers of Baltimore* (New York, 1937), p. 309.