

flung as ours, only in union is there strength: The combined manpower and industrial resources of all of our forty-eight States are immensely more conducive to peace than could ever be the efforts of all forty-eight States working independently, no matter how valiantly. Thus, in cooperating one hundred percent with the Federal Government, as this State Administration is doing, Maryland is not sacrificing one iota of its own prerogatives, but rather we are standing shoulder to shoulder with the other component elements of our Nation to present an united front against aggression from any source whatsoever.

It was with this thought in mind that I appointed, some several months ago, the Maryland Council of Defense and Resources. This group of outstanding citizens, from every section of the State, will serve as an Advisory Commission to the State Administration in matters relating to national defense, and at the same time will form a connecting link with Defense Authorities in Washington.

For some weeks now this Council has been engaged busily in assembling important information relating to the various phases of our present and potential resources of every kind. One of its committees, for instance, has for its particular function consideration of the many legal questions raised by the imminent departure of our National Guard and Draft Troops to camp for their year's training. Other groups are preparing readily available statistics about potential manufacturing facilities, strategic highway needs, and the like. As a result of such effort and planning by this Council, if and when a real emergency should develop, Maryland will be ready to throw every bit of her resources into the struggle without any of the heart-breaking delays that marked defense efforts throughout our Country during the first year of the World War of twenty-three years ago.

Naturally, one of the first important considerations upon which the advice and assistance of the Council of Defense would be sought, would be the question of replacing the National Guard units of our State when that excellent body of our State's manhood is called into active service as of January 3rd. Here again cooperation between State and Federal Authorities becomes vital to efficiency. While the new force, call it a Home Guard if you will, will come directly under State jurisdiction, the matter of outfitting and arming the various units is one where the resources of the Federal Government will be urgently needed. And, again, the advice and experience of military authorities will be sought in determining the type and number of new units that best will answer the demands likely to be made upon such an organization.

Fortunately, as I told the members of the American Legion at their State Convention in Cumberland last August, there is available to the State, in the ranks of the various veterans organizations, and among the thousands of former soldiers in our State, an ample reserve of active manpower, to form the nucleus of the new units that will be organized. With the splendid training these men received in that tremendous struggle of 1917-1918, and judging from the cooperative and patriotic spirit displayed by the members of these various veterans organizations, it will be possible, I am convinced, to have available, a State Military Force that will be completely prepared to take over any and every duty assigned to it, a force in which the citizenry of our State can have complete confidence, no matter how grave the emergency that may arise.