

be productive of the best considered legislative enactments that could possibly be desired.

Several practical and most beneficial results will follow from the operation of the Council. Foolish suggestions and ill-advised legislation can be quickly discarded henceforth because the research by the Council and its staff will show up the proposals as unworthy of serious attention. As a result the General Assembly will be able to get down to serious business without the usual delay, and should be able to complete its deliberations and adjourn before the last day set by the Constitution for the termination of its work. If this is done, as I feel certain can be done, the Legislative Council will save the State more money than has been expended for its own support.

We are approaching a legislative session which will probably be the most important in the history of our State. The perilous times during which we are passing demand that we lay aside partisanship and base our action upon what is best for our State and for our Nation. Matters concerning defense will press for attention and we should not determine these vitally important issues upon political or such considerations. Fortunately, our State machinery does not need radical overhauling. Most important, our strong financial position will enable us to do the necessary things without burdening the taxpayers with increased taxation. In fact, the favorable fiscal situation of Maryland will undoubtedly enable us to reduce taxes.

I close with the urgent request that the citizens of Maryland maintain an interest in the functioning of their government and keep informed upon the nature and details of the public's business which is being transacted. It is your business and you are entitled to know the way in which it is being handled. We want you to learn the underlying reasons for our action and invite your constructive criticism and suggestions because our sole purpose is to strive for the advancement of Maryland.

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## FARM BUREAU CONVENTION

Lord Baltimore Hotel, December 10, 1940

Baltimore

**T**ODAY the people of Maryland welcome cordially the delegates to the Twenty-Second Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation. As their official representative, and as a citizen who long has been conversant with the great contributions that have been made, locally and nationally, by the farm groups of our State and Nation, I feel it a privilege, indeed, to appear before you and to extend the greetings of our people to you.

While it is the first time our State has had the pleasure of being host to your organization, it is not I am sure, the first time that many of you have visited with us, and certainly I am most hopeful that there will be many future occasions upon which you will come to see us, both individually and as an organization. Comparisons are oftentimes unfortunate, but there is not the slightest hesitancy in my mind in saying that this is one of the outstanding national groups which we in Maryland have ever been privileged to welcome to our midst. Coming from every section, State and Territory of our Nation,