

recognizing that there will be tremendous demands upon us for war materials of every kind, they still have so much confidence in our much-vaunted American industry, that they believe that all industry has to do is to wave some magic wand and these things will appear in the needed quantity.

You and other thinking persons know how absurd this belief is. To anyone at all conversant with developments in America during the past eighteen months, it is apparent that, with all admitted experience in quantity production, with all our enormous supplies of raw materials; despite our great mills, our great automobile factories, our great industries of many kinds, we have not yet achieved anything like the defense production efficiency that will be necessary to assure our complete safety.

Well may we thank the people of Britain that they have held the hordes of Hitlerism at bay these many months, while we have slowly, and in many cases even falteringly, labored to whip our industrial organizations into shape. Well may we thank a beneficent Providence that an accident of geography provides us a temporarily effective—and I emphasize the word temporarily—defense against the sudden onslaught that has been Hitler's most effective weapon.

You will hear in a little while from a gentleman who is as thoroughly conversant with America's production capacity and needs as any man in the Country. I will leave to him the story of what must be done. I want to point out here now, however, that we have arranged today's meeting, designed to launch our District Councils upon their very important work, with the definite view in mind of impressing upon every citizen of our State the enormity of the problem of production that is facing our State and our Country, and the utter and absolute necessity not only of finding the answer to this production problem, but of finding it quickly.

It is not safe to count upon further prolonged periods during which we can build up gradually the production required. Possibly we might be favored with time to accomplish our industrial objectives without an all-out effort. But it would certainly be ruinous for us should the anticipated attack upon us come soon and find us as unprepared as we are even at this moment, after our many months of preparation.

I consider today's meeting, which brings together representative citizens, the responsible county and city officials of our State, the key industrial people of Maryland, the women who have contributed so much to defense preparations, —possibly the most important gathering in the State since the emergency developed. It will convey to all here present, I believe, and in a way that will be most impressive, the very disturbing fact that we have much to do in the way of production.

In the name of the people of the State, I express gratitude for your presence here today, confident in the belief that everyone is realistic enough to want to know exactly how we stand nationally, and further to know just how well Maryland is living up to its obligations in all respects. It is believed that as a result of this meeting the people of Maryland, and particularly those