

To this end the Board of Public Works, yesterday, at its meeting, approved the recommendations for a decrease of 8 cents in the tax rates for 1942 and 1943 that will save property owners of the State more than \$4,000,000 during these two years.

This was possible only because of an Act passed at the last Legislature, sponsored by the present administration, permitting us to take any surplus above \$2,000,000 and apply it to the State debt, at the same time reducing the State tax for the ensuing year.

Generally, then, I am happy to report that Maryland is in about as good a position as any State could be to face the months and possibly years of stress that are ahead. Our Defense Council has initiated many necessary civilian defense activities and has the situation well in hand on that score. Our finances are in order, and I believe it can be said without fear of contradiction that the public employees recognize the fact that theirs is a public trust and they are anxious to discharge it faithfully.

The one thing necessary now, if we are to do our part whole-heartedly by our Country in this time of crisis is to see that we are a unit behind our National leaders in Washington in the furtherance of defense planning and production, and in National policy.

Today there is room for no division of spirit among the people of America. Rather there is a very definite need for re-awakening of that spirit of old, that spirit that prompted our fearless and self-reliant pioneer forefathers to overcome every obstacle in their fight against the wilderness, and against the forces that sought to disrupt their new-born Country. It was that spirit that made this American republic a great Nation, a Nation with a soul, a Nation with character. It was that spirit that gave birth to men like Francis Scott Key and Roger Brooke Taney, two of Frederick's famous sons who forever will hold high place in the hearts of every American.

Today, as a result of the toil and the vision of patriotic men and women of generations gone by, we have a stable government founded upon the eternal principles of freedom and justice. Whether we shall continue to possess this Nation *tomorrow* in freedom and justice depends solely upon ourselves. For the sake of our little ones; in justice to unborn generations of Americans, we cannot, we *must not* fail.