

insure their safety during and after an atomic attack. One means of doing this is to pave the way for the construction of private fall-out shelters.

During the several months, it has become apparent that building, housing and zoning codes throughout the State must be revised. Alert citizens seeking permission to construct fall-out shelters have been stymied by laws, which in light of the clear and present danger of nuclear attack, are inadequate. During today's meeting, there will be a discussion on this problem. Perhaps the solution lies in the enactment of a statewide law pertaining to the building of fall-out shelters. If legislation is required, it will receive my firm backing.

I note with satisfaction that some of the political subdivisions in Maryland are conducting surveys to determine what facilities can be used as public shelters in the event of a nuclear attack. Such surveys should be conducted intensively in every county. We must prepare an inventory of what we have available to better determine what we need. Only then will we have an accurate picture of the enormous task confronting us.

I also urge you to discuss the possibility of encouraging lending institutions in Maryland to extend long term loans to homeowners wishing to construct private fall-out shelters. Immediate cash outlays will work hardships on most of the citizens of this State. If long-term loans can be made available, they may serve to stimulate those who fear for their safety but who have no immediate financial resources available to build the shelter they so desperately want.

Briefly, ladies and gentlemen, I have outlined what I consider to be the problems facing us as we attempt to develop a plan of action for Maryland in case of nuclear bombardment.

We must be prepared to face the derisive sneers of those who think that mankind will be unable to survive a nuclear holocaust under any circumstances. The will to live is man's greatest instinct. We must capitalize on that instinct if we are to preserve our way of life.

REMARKS TO THE ANNUAL COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE
DIRECTORS MEETING
PIKESVILLE
June 21, 1962

I am delighted to be with you again this evening. This is the first opportunity we have had to meet together as a group since the Governor's Civil Defense Conference in Annapolis on September 28.