

serious threat of a nuclear war. Tragic events of the past several days have served to deepen the international crisis and thus have underscored the importance of the President's plea that we mobilize all of our resources in a strong effort to safeguard ourselves against the threats of communist aggression. This is one matter I believe we should discuss here today. Another matter, separate but related, has to do with conditions within our own State. I refer to the pressing problem of unemployment and underemployment in labor surplus areas of Maryland.

Our Maryland Department of Economic Development has as one of its primary functions the responsibility of fostering and developing opportunities for the gainful employment of the citizens of our State. In that role, it strives to promote and encourage the location of new industries and businesses within our borders and also to retain and expand enterprises already located here. Our objective is to determine how Maryland industries may contribute most to defense production and mobilization readiness, and at the same time increase job opportunities for our citizens. With the purpose in mind, I have asked our Department of Economic Development to undertake a survey of the production capacities of our State. I have invited all of you here today to ask for your advice and your cooperation as to how this survey can be made of greatest value to all of your agencies.

The new Area Redevelopment Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to provide the procurement divisions of federal government agencies with a list of firms in redevelopment areas which desire to obtain government contracts for supplies and services. The Small Business Administration, in keeping with responsibilities assigned to it under the laws, gathers information of a similar nature about small businesses. We in the government of Maryland recognize that federal defense agencies have many needs for information about small businesses. At the same time, we cannot help but feel that there must be ways in which our Maryland Agencies can make it easier for the federal procurement offices to do their jobs in Maryland.

Here are the things that I have asked you to come here today to discuss:

1. In what ways can we plan and carry out our survey of defense production capabilities in Maryland in order to make the resulting information most useful to all the interested federal agencies?
2. In what ways can we work with federal government agencies in order to make it easier for them to enter into contracts with Maryland firms?