

REMARKS, INTRODUCTION OF  
SECRETARY OF LABOR ARTHUR GOLDBERG  
MIDDLE RIVER

February 9, 1962

Ladies and Gentlemen: This is a most important gathering—it is important for several reasons:

First and foremost, it is important because it represents an effort by members of labor, management, and government to solve an acute and serious unemployment problem.

Secondly it is important because of the caliber and level of the group represented here. From the federal government we have the Secretary of Labor, Mr. Arthur Goldberg, showing us, by his plant visits all morning that unemployment in the basic industries of this area is of national concern. We have our Maryland Congressional delegation present—our most effective link and spokesmen between local and national government. This Middle River area, being in Dan Brewster's District, is of particular concern to him, but it is also vital to Congressmen Garmatz, Fallon and Friedel. We have officials here from Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We have regional and local spokesmen for labor unions that represent many thousands of our most skilled and productive workers. And we have top management people from the Martin Company, Bethlehem Shipyards, and Maryland Drydock—people who are responsible for a tremendous segment of the economic life of the Baltimore area.

It is not often that a group of this kind is assembled, and when the event does occur it is only because we are faced with a very urgent problem. Shipbuilding and the aerospace industries are two of the cornerstones on which Baltimore's prosperity is built. These industries are also cornerstones on which this nation's security is built. When they are in trouble, we are all in trouble. The federal government, through its contracting authority, injects billions of dollars into our economy each year. Each year, especially since the advent of our stepped-up space effort, more and more workers are finding their lives and their welfare permanently linked to this vast federal program. It is only natural, therefore, when the loss of federal contracts results in personal hardship and unemployment, that these workers should look toward the federal government for the remedy. Because the employment is so directly linked to federal expenditures, the search for a remedy is also expressed in a direct and unashamed demand for contract continuation. I have the feeling