

Bill represents. The fire school recently built in Baltimore City has received some fine recognition in numerous national firemen's magazines. The publicity has brought many visitors to the city to inspect this modern facility. I am told that this firemen's training center in Baltimore is used by more men daily than any other in the country. Bob Byrus and John Bryan agree with me that this is true. So, Bill, we are genuinely proud of your Baltimore City program of firemanship training and education.

You will forgive me, I am sure, if I direct most of my remarks to the volunteers who predominate in Maryland. The aims and objectives of the fire service in reducing fire losses will always have my sympathetic support, just as the people engaged in this work will always include some of my finest friendships.

Maryland perhaps was not the first state to engage in firemen's training, but we did get into the field rather early. It was in September, 1930, that we began, and we got in with both feet by starting a program to teach firemen to fight fire. The firemen of our State realized early the importance of teaching—that to await the lessons of experience sometimes can be pretty costly.

In 1937, we took a big step forward when Professor Robert Bruce Criswell agreed to come to the University of Maryland to take charge of our firemen's training program on a full-time basis. Bob was well known to the old-timers of this conference. The program was placed in the College of Engineering of the University, and this, I believe, contributed greatly to the success of our fire service training. In the scientific and technical atmosphere of the College of Engineering, the program flourished. In such a good home, it has been able to fulfill the purpose of the University, now as in the past, to be a service agency to the citizens of the State.

In 1939, another stalwart of FDIC, Mr. James W. Just, became director of the Fire Service Extension Department of the University of Maryland. In 1945-46, the Fire Service Extension Building was constructed on the campus of the University of Maryland to house the Maryland Fire Safety Program. We are planning next year to expand the facilities further through a capital improvement item in the University budget. This is tangible evidence of the importance we in Maryland assign to our present program, which includes fire prevention and fire protection, as well as fire suppression.

I call your attention to the fact that Maryland acclaims itself as being tops in fire service training. But idle boasts are futile and undignified