

The Maryland Council of Defense was appointed by Governor Emerson C. Harrington under an Act of the extra session of the Maryland Legislature held in June, 1917. The Council was organized July 11, 1917. The membership of the Council consists of the old Preparedness and Survey Commission, which had been appointed informally by the Governor earlier in the year, with others named by the Governor to complete the required membership of fifty, of whom twenty-five are representatives of the counties of the State. General Carl R. Gray, Chairman of the old commission, was elected Chairman of the Council. He served until December 1, 1917, when he resigned and was succeeded by General Francis E. Waters. This Council acts through an Executive Committee, which consists of five citizens and the State Comptroller and the Treasurer, a total of seven. The Governor has the veto power on the appropriations of the Committee. He has attended many of its meetings and takes a deep interest in its work. Although not a member of the Committee, the Attorney-General, Hon. Albert C. Ritchie, has been present at most of the meetings, and has been of great assistance to the Committee.

The Executive Committee held its first meeting on July 11, and organized for action. Later it elected Lynn R. Meekins, Secretary, and Wm. O. Peirson, Treasurer, and rented offices in the Union Trust Building, Baltimore.

Whenever the Executive Committee of said Council is by any act or acts given any power of jurisdiction with respect to the disbursement of moneys appropriated by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury and the State Treasurer shall constitute part of said Executive Committee, so that in all cases the Executive Committee shall consist of the regular five members thereof, and the Comptroller and the Treasurer.

This committee has charge of the expenditures under the Act of the Extraordinary Session authorizing a State Debt not exceeding one million dollars "for defense of the State in the present war."

The County Commissioners consist of 5 members in each county, the chairman being the county member of the Council.

The Women's Section, Mrs. Edward Shoemaker, Chairman, is a complete organization along the lines of the Council, with which it is in close affiliation.

The Colored Division, of which Rev. Dr. Ernest Lyons is chairman, is a complete city and State organization.

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1.—1917.

A Joint Resolution pledging the resources of the State of Maryland to the United States for the successful prosecution of the war and commending to the sympathetic consideration of the people of Maryland the formation, upon the defeat of the Imperial German Government, of a Union of Free Nations for the Preservation of Peace.

WHEREAS, The United States is at war with the Imperial German Government in order that the world may be made safe for democracy;

Therefore be it Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the State of Maryland pledges all its resources to the Government of the United States for the successful prosecution of the war.

Further Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland commends to the sympathetic consideration of the people of this State the formation upon the defeat of the Imperial German Government of a union of free nations for the preservation of peace.

Further Resolved, That the Governor of the State of Maryland be requested to transmit a copy of this Joint Resolution to the President of the United States.

Approved June 27th, 1917.