

As we stand here this afternoon, happy participants in these interesting ceremonies, I wonder how many of us stop to give a thought to what such occasions as these mean to us here in America. We have but to remember the headlines that have greeted us in our daily papers these many months to come to the full and consoling realization that we, as Americans, enjoy blessings of peace and liberty, such as are vouchsafed at the present time to few other peoples in the world. While we are gathered there dedicating this splendid symbol of American progress, millions of human beings throughout the whole world are engaged in struggles that are the very antithesis of everything we hold dear in America. While every energy of our more than one hundred million people is directed to the development and furtherance of our cultural and physical possessions, countless numbers elsewhere in Europe and Asia are engaged in the dreadful task of tearing down the cultural and physical achievements of centuries.

Here we stand in free assemblage, subject in the final analysis to no dictator but our own conscience. In other countries millions of people, with hope and ambitions little different from ours, are being regimented to the extent that their every thought and word, as well as their every deed, must be done at the direction of an exacting government. While we continue to build and plan for the future, who knows but at this very moment some such building as this in one of the warring countries of Europe may be the target for a bomb that will undo the work of years of toil, and destroy perhaps a treasured work of art.

Well may we, as we stand assembled here to celebrate this, the completion of the formal occupancy of this building, well may we, I say, offer up a quiet, but heartfelt, prayer of thanksgiving that despite all the tribulations and griefs that assail the rest of the world, we here in Maryland, and throughout all America, may go our way in peace, and look securely to a future of peaceful development for ourselves and for our families.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF DEFENSE AND RESOURCES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Senate Chamber, State House, August 1, 1940

Annapolis

I HAVE invited representative citizens, as a matter of patriotic service, to compose the Maryland Council of Defense and Resources. Several compelling reasons prompted me to take this action and certain definite purposes should govern its functioning, concerning which I feel it timely to make this statement.

In asking the citizens of serve in this connection, I wish to give assurance that no consideration will enter into any of the plans or activities of the Council except that which is for the public good. In a word, we shall strive to do all that lies in our power but only that which is calculated to be for the preservation and perpetuation of the ideals and principles which characterize the United States of America. Fortunately, Maryland in previous crises has given