

he gave allegiance are proud to point to his advocacy of policies and principles which are the essentials of ordered government. I close with an attempt to emphasize that Maryland honors itself in paying tribute to the memory of one whose nobility of purpose and superiority of achievement merited first place among our people. This generation and future generations can do no better than to perpetuate the memory of Maryland's distinguished Governor, Albert C. Ritchie.

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN* DEMOCRATIC MASS MEETING

Lyric Theatre, September 10, 1940

Baltimore

TONIGHT the democracy of Maryland takes up with confidence the task of insuring the continuance of the splendid social and economic progress that has marked the past eight years of our Nation's existence. As loyal Americans first and loyal Democrats second, we may be certain that members of our Party in Maryland will cooperate in seeking to preserve for the Country and, also, for the State, the benefits accruing to us during the Democratic administrations since 1932.

This is no ordinary election. These are not ordinary times. With governments of the old world tottering and with ruthless invasions a daily occurrence, the American people will think first of our Country's welfare. In a time of world peril they will prefer to have experience and proven judgment in the Presidential chair and in the Congress, because the continuance of our form of government is more important than the ambitions of the opposition party to effect a return to power. With utter chaos threatened to many nations abroad as a result of wars now raging and with internal problems of unemployment and social adjustment within our own Country, the President and the members of Congress to be elected in November will be called upon to guide our Country through as troublous a period as the world has ever known.

Fortunately, at a time of world crisis, the United States now has a President who is a match for any ruler in the world. The Commander in Chief of our Army and Navy does not know what it is to yield to any foreign power. His handling of international affairs stamps him as the equal, yea, I say superior, in statecraft and diplomacy, of all the leaders of government in the world. It is plain common sense, but infinitely more important, it is for the selfish interest of Americans who want to repel any danger to American institutions, to continue in office the man who has demonstrated his ability. They can do that and they will do it by the re-election in November of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

* Governor O'Connor also read the speech of Hon. Wm. B. Bankhead, Speaker of the House when Mr. Bankhead was fatally stricken that same evening at a local hotel. Governor O'Connor received a telegram of personal commendation for his excellent rendition of the Bankhead speech by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The speech, through Governor O'Connor, was nationally broadcast over more than eighty stations.