

are partly State and partly National and which will be jointly handled by authorities of the two governments, working in harmony and close cooperation. I mention the problems of sabotage, espionage, the handling of aliens, and the safeguarding of vital industries and essential facilities, so necessary in a period of emergency, as illustrations of topics which have received the most careful consideration. I am happy to report that definite programs, which have not been and should not be widely publicized, have been determined upon between the Governors and other officials of the states in conjunction with the National Government.

Maryland was one of the first states of the Union to form a Council of Defense and Resources, along lines which would enable us to maintain an alignment with important national activities. The National Council of Defense, through its Advisory Commission, will continue to avail of the information and guidance obtainable through this central State agency which is sub-divided in order to make possible a concentration of thought and effort along various lines. Mr. W. Frank Roberts accepted my invitation to act as Chairman and with him is a non-partisan group of men and women, representing every section of our State, to each one of whom is delegated certain specific matters for study, research and recommendation.

In approaching the important question of home defense, I have felt that we may, at any time, call upon the people of Maryland individually or in groups to help insure the safety and security of our people and their property. It has been proven all too often in the tragic cases of European countries that citizens were ready enough to do their valiant best when aroused to the dangers. But, again and again, they were not fully aroused until they heard the crash of bombs and saw the oncoming hordes of invaders upon their very soil.

The time has passed when we dare say—"it can't happen here." The dreadful fact is that it has happened everywhere except here and that the time is before us to "Arouse and Beware." Let us not wait to hear the cry, "The Torch is at Thy Temple Door." Let us set up our bulwarks at a distance. In the name of the old defenders, let us have a modern defense, because the liberties which our forefathers gave us are ours only so long as we keep them.

We have not earned freedom unless we have learned to deserve it by watchfulness and unity and sacrifice.

The War Department has just informed me as to the approximate date when the Maryland National Guard will be called into Federal service. Because it is a part of army training plans, the date cannot be disclosed but it will be within the next several months. We are preparing to meet the situation which results, because it is essential that there be available a Home Defense Unit which will be ready for the protection of industries, transportation and water facilities, storage and munition plants and establishments related to the munitions of war and armed forces.

As a nucleus I have suggested the availability of veterans of the last World War, numbers of whom are still in the prime of life and possess the experience, training and adaptability for this important service. No group of our citizenry submitted to a more trying test of their patriotism and devotion to Country and, while they may be excluded by age from joining the armed forces of the Country, they are entirely fit and able to shoulder the