

organization of the State Industrial Accident Commission for the benefit of injured employees; in the field of parole and probation so that the reclamation and rehabilitation of a goodly number of persons can be effected.

I would, also, be of interest to you, I think, to be informed of the details of the State's handling of the mentally ill and the handicapped and infirm who, through no fault of their own, have become public charges. I should like, also, to discuss in detail the functioning and the possibilities of the Legislative Council, a recently created agency of our General Assembly, which is functioning regularly in the study of proposed legislation. The work of this Council should result not only in the improvement of the quality of legislation but should result in elimination of considerable unnecessary work in the Legislature and, particularly, in the elimination of the last minute jams which are a reflection upon present-day lawmaking. But possibly more of this for another day.

I have mentioned the necessity for efficient state governments because it is a most fortunate circumstance that, under our form of government so wisely conceived by the founding fathers, independent sovereign governments have been established in 48 states as well as in the central government. These 48 separate and sovereign governments were designed to operate and should continue to operate, independently of the National Government. You may not have thought of it but it is reassuring to think that if any invader undertook to crush any one of these 48 governments, there would still remain 47 well-established governments still functioning. No Blitzkrieg could at one swoop wipe out these 48 sovereign state units which, while cooperating wholeheartedly and patriotically for the national good, are yet sovereign and separate entities.

We discuss the theories of government, as well as the results from the practical application of theories for sound reasons. Defenders Day means more than physical preparedness against brute assault. There are other threats to our ramparts than bombs and high explosives. Some of these we have been warned against so repeatedly in the last year that we can hardly be caught off guard. No American worthy of the name will lend himself to the subversive forces that call themselves by un-American names, or even those which thinly disguise their purpose. It seems, however, that patriotic excitement might take such of intolerance that will hurt the very thing it means to defend. For example, this is an election year. Feelings run high. There are controversial issues which have transgressed party lines.

We are not defending America when we castigate and malign our political opponents. It is not true that every isolationist is an ally of Hitler; nor that a proponent of total preparedness is a war monger. These things are said sometimes in excitement but they are better left unsaid. Certainly it would be better if they not be believed.

Finally, let us remember that Defenders Day was consecrated by a spirit as well as by men. It was the intention in 1814 that America should keep her liberties at home and her honor before the world. For these things we fought a war. For these things we would fight again. It is not true that we are going to war but it would be foolish to deny that the war may come to us. Once again the American people, the Maryland people, may have to be defenders. If so, these are the things we shall be called on to defend—our