

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF DEFENSE AND RESOURCES

I have, on behalf of our State, extended complete cooperation to the Federal Government in the matter of national defense. In fact, one of the most effective means to insure our national integrity is the continuation of smooth-running and well-managed state governments.

It was with this in mind that I established in August the Maryland Council of Defense and Resources as the official State body to advise with me on matters of national defense that are to be carried out at state level, and to coordinate such activities within the State. The Council operates in conjunction with the Division of State and Local Cooperation of the National Defense Advisory Commission, the two bodies jointly deciding upon a program in all matters requiring state action.

The Maryland Council consists of twenty-five citizens, and operates through a chairman, executive director and seven sub-committees under the following headings:

(1) Industrial Resources and Production

This committee has forwarded to the National Defense Advisory Commission a vast amount of industrial information of importance to them and of great potential value to business concerns in this State.

(2) Civil Protection

This committee has been of considerable help in the working of the Selective Service Act, in preparing for the formation of the State Guard, and in formulating plans for coordination of all emergency activities that may become necessary: e. g., auxiliary police, auxiliary fire fighters, transport, etc.

(3) Health, Welfare and Consumer Interest

This committee has a triple function:

(A) Medical Plans—Auxiliary medical personnel, hospitalization, emergency evacuation of sick and wounded, etc.

(B) Welfare Work—Handling the additional load resulting from the increased industrial and military personnel, including entertainment, recreation and comfort of soldiers away from camp, family welfare work, travellers' aid, information services, etc.

(C) Consumer Interest—Retail price control, quality and nutritional value of food.

(4) Housing Works and Transportation

This committee has assembled information on measures taken by corporations and municipalities for the protection and restoration of essential services. It is, also, gathering information on the housing situation throughout the State.

(5) Agricultural Resources and Production

This committee is making available complete information of agricultural production and consumption within the State, including livestock and seafood.

(6) Human Resources and Skills

This committee has been active in the promotion of technical schools throughout the State, set up to assist industry in obtaining the skilled technicians needed.

(7) Legislation

This committee has made a review of existing laws, with a view to preparing enactments that will be needed.

Future plans of the Council involve continuation of the activities outlined above, but present some problems that are immediate. The first of these is to