

fair-minded citizens of their Party throughout Maryland, I should be guided by what is for the public good rather than by party considerations.

While I undertook in my inaugural speech to make abundantly clear that I will always respect the prerogatives of the General Assembly and that I will never undertake to infringe upon its rights, I wish again to reiterate that assertion. I desire to state that in every proposal which I make to the Legislature, I welcome the most thorough and analytical discussion and consideration by your members of the issues in question. This I do because I am absolutely convinced of your sincerity and public-spiritedness and because I seek always to have the benefit of your counsel and judgment upon the important matters which confront our State.

NATIONAL DEFENSE WEEK

Radio Station WFBR, February 18, 1939
Baltimore

IT is my privilege to be on the air lanes this evening as the guest of the Reserve Officers' Association of the United States, which is sponsoring the observance of National Defense Week, February 12 to February 22, 1939.

For several years past, unrest and rumors of war have been the rule rather than the exception, and not within the memory of any living person has the world been in such a state of nervous tension, as has been our unhappy lot during the past four or five years. Some countries have ingeniously contrived to become involved in undeclared war to which they refer as "incidents," causing loss of life and destruction of property that has been appalling. In some instances, stronger nations have occupied and annexed the territory of weaker ones, appropriated to their own use the territory so occupied, the population and all tangible and intangible property, reducing the weaker nation to a mere state of vassalage.

From some quarters it is contended that our geographic position guarantees safety to us from foreign attack or invasion or from political involvement. But this is not quite correct. Isolation might have given us such protection before the advent of modern communication had reached its present state of development and perfection, but not in this day and age when communication, especially air transportation, is being constantly improved and perfected, and the flying radius of aeroplanes much increased and their speed accelerated.

Influences repugnant to democracy and liberty are spreading over the face of the earth like a contagious disease, and the contagion is likely to involve us if we do not build up a resistance against it, for it is quite certain that every country in the world, including our own, is exposed to the danger of infection from it. Our Country plays such an important part in world affairs that we cannot sit supinely by and permit the forces of evil, injustice and inequality to infect all nations of the world until, too late, the insidious infection shall be placed upon our own door step like a foundling child, which we shall be forced to accept.