

interests of Maryland and her citizens in the present emergency, the recent Legislature passed a number of laws which relate to National Defense matters.

I welcome this opportunity to explain the purpose of these laws, so that the members of this Association and the public generally may know that they were all enacted solely as an aid to carrying out the National Defense Program and safeguarding the interests of the people of this State. The almost unanimous approval given these statutes by the Maryland Legislature clearly demonstrates that the vast majority of the people of Maryland favored their purposes, and are prepared to make whatever sacrifices may be needed to carry them out.

Four of the defense laws were sponsored by the Federal-State Conference on Law Enforcement Problems held in Washington last August, which was called by the Governors' Conference, the Council of State Governments, the National Association of Attorneys General, and the Interstate Commission on Crime in cooperation with the Department of Justice. I had the privilege of presiding over one of the sections of the Conference. Two hundred and thirty representatives from 46 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Government were in attendance, and these representatives included the Governors of 14 States, 26 State Attorneys General, the Attorney General and Solicitor of the United States, the Director of the FBI, and many other State and Federal officials.

The Conference recommended that the States pass legislation on certain subjects, and a committee to prepare such legislation was selected. After making a preliminary study of the subject and exchanging tentative drafts of the laws, this Committee decided to propose four model laws, and drafts of these laws were finally approved and sent to the various States in December, 1940, for submission to the forty-three State Legislatures scheduled to meet this year.

The subjects covered were the formation of State Guards to function while the National Guard is in the Federal service; the control of explosives; the interstate protection of public property, and the prevention of sabotage. The Maryland Legislature passed all of these Acts, though certain amendments were made to some of them.

There was no opposition whatever to the Act providing for the interstate protection of public property, and there was not much opposition to the State Guard Act, and the Control of Explosives Act. However, at the suggestion of the representatives of organized labor, an amendment was made to the State Guard Act to prohibit members of the State Guard from accepting gifts or gratuities from private corporations or individuals; and at the suggestion of representatives of the Miners' Union, and in cooperation with the coal operators, the Control of Explosives Act was amended so as to avoid the necessity of each individual miner securing a license. Various other amendments were made to lessen the inconvenience which the Act would cause those dealing in and using explosives.

The greatest opposition was to the Sabotage Prevention Act, with representatives of organized labor taking the position that this Act would interfere