

As an instance of the problems that develop in such an intensive program as now faces us with regard to National Defense, I received a very personal and very urgent request yesterday from the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator in Washington, regarding the gasoline shortage. I was informed that the situation was acute and that, unless the voluntary reduction in the use of motor fuel was made much more effective, gas rationing would inevitably result.

Another urgent appeal therefore will be issued, in the hope that the people of our State may be able, of their own volition, and without government regulation, to effect the very drastic reductions necessary to conserve our fuel supply.

The coming twelve months may well change the course of history for the peoples of all the countries of the world.

Certainly it will be a trying period, one in which all those who are opposed to racial and class hatreds, to oppression in any form, to bigotry of all kinds, must stand firm in opposition to the lusts of the dictators.

We, here in America, blest beyond all the other peoples of the world, must be alert in the extreme to ward off not only any direct military assaults that may be launched against us but also those less direct but dangerously insidious attacks that are being prepared, and even now are being pushed, by subversive groups.

Having fully realized the danger, the present situation and the need, the people of Maryland then can be counted on to do their part. Our people will be the worthy successors of patriotic forbears who rallied in every emergency in American history to the defense of America. Whatever may come, no matter how exacting or how demanding upon the capacities, the possessions or the rights of our people, Maryland will be at the head of the procession of States to protect, preserve and defend the Nation and to make secure the future of civilization.

There is not a man or woman in Maryland who cannot do service for National Defense. Let us, therefore, join hands in this effort which is not only toward our personal salvation but toward the salvation of all humanity.