

DEFENSE COUNCIL—WOMEN'S DIVISION
"NUTRITION WEEK"—LuncheonOctober 29, 1941
Baltimore

MARYLANDERS' have never shirked their duty to the Federal Government in the many crises that have faced our Country from Colonial days. Certainly, from the gathering here today, and from the many evidences of wholehearted cooperation that have come to attention since Mrs. Whitehurst first was named to head the Women's Division of the Maryland Council of Defense, the women of Maryland are upholding nobly the traditions of State loyalty and cooperation.

It is an inspiring thing to note the enthusiasm with which our women have responded to the official call to align themselves under the banner of civilian defense. Many, many times in the past women of our State have rendered the most valuable services in times of stress and war, but never have they had an opportunity to present an organized front such as has been given them during the past year, the results of which are being reported here today.

To women who have given so generously of their time and their abilities as you women have, it hardly would seem necessary to recall that we free people of America have a stake in the world's troubles today such as no other people, in no other land, could have. American Democracy, with all its unmatched freedoms and privileges, and opportunities for personal advancement, is not merely something to wave the flag about, and to cheer from the sidewalks as the troops go by on parade. American Democracy is the most sacred form of government that mankind has ever evolved, because it is based on the inherent dignity of man as an individual, and because it recognizes to the fullest his God-given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is something to work for, to fight for, to die for, if necessary! It must be preserved for future generations, no matter what the cost.

Not only is there evidenced here, and in all the activities of the women's division, an intense loyalty and desire to be of service, but this loyalty and patriotic ambition have been harnessed into working order, so to speak, so that today there is an organized, well-functioning branch of our defense activities. Under Mrs. Whitehurst, the Chairman selected in the various counties have done yeoman service.

To all who have worked so enthusiastically throughout the State, to Mrs. Whitehurst and her corps of very splendid assistants, and to everyone present here today, I wish to voice in most sincere fashion the thanks and the congratulations of the people of our State for what has been accomplished. You have laid the foundation for an organization that will be invaluable to our Nation and to our State if ever we are called upon to resist attack, or to fight off invasion, particularly from the air.