

JUNIOR BAR CONFERENCE, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
RADIO STATION WFBR

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Baltimore

IT is appropriate, indeed, that the programs sponsored by the Junior Bar Conference of the American Bar Association, on "The Urgency of Preparation for Home Defense," should be gotten underway this evening, just prior to the opening of "Civilian Defense Week" on Armistice Day.

In planning thus to bring to the attention of the people of our State, and in fact to all within listening distance of Station WFBR, salient facts regarding State and National Defense planning and progress to date, the members of the Junior Bar Conference are to be heartily commended, for they are performing an educational service that is most timely and necessary in these critical times.

The people of America today are facing a situation without parallel in the history of our Nation. Most of them are facing it with full appreciation of the needs of the moment, and with the courage and resolution that will be required if they ever are actually called upon to fulfill their respective parts. Many, however, it is feared, have not sufficient appreciation of the true situation, and of the dangers inherent in this failure to evaluate present conditions properly.

America has faced war before, and many of its people have known the intimate horror of battles staged within sight of their very homesteads. Our history recounts many incidents, too, where our women, and sometimes even our half-grown boys, have taken active part in efforts to repulse enemy attack.

Down through the pages of history other nations, too, have known the terrible consequences of invasion and complete subjugation. All too many records there are of whole peoples being dispersed or carried into slavery or maltreated in savage fashion. In every instance, however, the treatment visited upon the women and children of conquered towns and countries has come as a result of victory, and only after the warriors on opposing sides had settled the issue by force of arms.

Today, however many countries of the world have faced, or are facing, assaults upon their non-combatant populations, such as even the most ruthless barbarians of ancient times never conceived. These attacks, moreover, are not an afterthought of conquests, but are the result of devilish advance planning. They are being carried on as a part of a general all-out plan to destroy entire peoples.

At the moment the peoples of America, our women, our children, our aged and infirm, the little babes in their cradles, are free from the dangers of sudden death, or fearful injury, through invasion. Whether they will be free from such dangers tomorrow, or next month, is a matter which a foreign dictator may undertake to decide.