

Further calls, however, of much more varied nature are sure to come, and in this connection I might say that much light on women's place in defense will be presented forcibly to the State and the Nation during Civilian Defense Week, which will begin tomorrow.

Undoubtedly you are all familiar with the Civilian Defense Week plan. Its purpose is to impress deeply and forcibly upon the people of our State and of the Country a full appreciation of the dangers that threaten, and of the steps that must be taken to avert them. It is a story with which every woman here must be thoroughly familiar, for unless we can go out to tell to the rest of the people of the county and the State what is needed, and what will be expected of each one of them, complete civilian defense planning will not be possible.

Throughout the State the ground work has been laid for the various phases of necessary civilian defense in time of an emergency, ever since the creation by me of the Maryland Council of Defense back in August of last year. At that time, with the inspiring experience of the English people in the defense of their homeland to guide us, and with full cognizance of the vital part played in every field of home defense by the women, young and old, of Great Britain, I appointed Mrs. John L. Whitehurst to accept membership on the Maryland Council of Defense and to begin organization of the women of our State for defense purposes.

While much was expected of this women's organization, it must be admitted freely that its accomplishments have far exceeded any possible anticipation. Thanks to the cooperation of the women, the entire State has been set up in a close-knit organization, headed by fifteen Administrative Chairmen, and with the Presidents of leading State organizations serving on the Advisory Committee. Backing up the State Chairmen and the Advisory Committee, as the direct contact points with the many thousands of women of our State, are the county Chairmen and the Chairman for Baltimore City, all working as a unit under the supervision of the State Division. Four hundred or more committees are functioning in various fields of endeavor in the various parts of the State.

All of us remember, in the war that engulfed the world more than a score of years ago, how many women there were who felt that they should be doing something of real value for their Country beyond the knitting of socks and sweaters. A few others, of course, did service as ambulance drivers and nurses, some additional few had their services utilized in specialized fields of defense industry. That was another day, however, and another type of war, and all the rules under which it was fought have been superseded by new methods that render women of the utmost importance, particularly in the field where America may one day need to put forth its mightiest efforts—that is, in the field of Home Defense.

Every one here hopes and prays, I know, that the day will never come when the women of America, or the military forces of our Country, will be called upon to repel an invader. But even while we hope and pray, it is but common sense to realize that, in the final analysis, the decision as to whether America is to be attacked will rest upon forces beyond our control. At the moment it seems a little far-fetched that America could ever be attacked, either by land