

to mount, to take care of increasing armament expenditures and rising cost of governmental services, Maryland is reducing, and reducing drastically, its taxes upon its residents.

As a result of legislation sponsored by the Administration at the last session of the Legislature, and made retroactive for 1940 incomes, a saving of close to \$5,000,000 was effected for the people of the State.

Furthermore, during that same session of the Legislature, the State tax was reduced for the years 1942 and '43, and provision was made in the law permitting the Governor and Board of Public Works to utilize surplus above a given point to reduce further the State tax for these years. Thanks to the healthy condition of the State's finances, brought about, to a great extent by careful handling of receipts and expenditures during the past two years, it was possible under the new law to reduce further the State tax to the point where a reduction of approximately 40% was affected. This means that for the years 1942 and '43 owners of real property in the State of Maryland, will save in excess of \$4,100,000, without impairing in the slightest any essential functioning of State services.

So exceptional was this state of affairs that newspapers all over the Country took note of it, and one of the leading magazines of the Nation saw fit to send one of its feature writers to Maryland to prepare an article for an approaching issue.

All of this is interesting not only because its final effect will be a saving of tremendous sums to Maryland taxpayers, but also because it is a great indication that Maryland's fiscal situation is sound, and that whatever the future may bring we will be in a favorable position to meet developments.

Maryland was among the foremost of all the States in initiating definite defense moves. As a member of the Executive Committee of the Governors' Conference, it was my privilege to issue jointly the call for the first joint State Federal conference on defense problems in Washington, in August of 1940, and in later conferences in Washington, Boston and Chicago. We have been active participants not only in bringing Maryland's defense efforts into line with those of the leading States, but also in helping to shape the general defense policy of all the States.

Several weeks ago I had the honor of conferring privately with the Commander-in-Chief of our Army and Navy, President Roosevelt, at the White House, regarding defense planning in Maryland, and was privileged to convey his views on various phases of State Defense Planning to a meeting in Chicago. of the Executive Committee of the Governor's Conference, charged with integrating the defense activities of all the States.

This National emergency is not a thing that waxes and wanes from day today; it is a constant menace. It is an ever-growing peril. It creeps in from the horizon and comes like a poisonous fog between us and the sunlight of our liberty. It was there yesterday—it will be not gone tomorrow.

Who then is really safe from this dragon of the sky? *Only the strong are safe.* Only a nation with weapons already in hand. Only peoples who reject in derision and disgust any promises of any kind from that monster of so many