

LUNCHEON FOLLOWING LAUNCHING OF S S ROGER B. TANEY AND
RICHARD HENRY LEE*

BELVEDERE HOTEL,

December 6, 1941

Baltimore

TODAY'S launchings are of more than usual interest to us because of the fact that they memorialize the accomplishments of two great Americans. One, a Marylander, Roger Brooke Taney, who rose to the judicial heights to become one of the great Chief Justices of the United States Supreme Court. The other, Richard Henry Lee, a resident of our sister commonwealth of Virginia, and a noted patriot who enjoyed the confidence of his Colonial contemporaries to such a degree that they chose him to be President of the Continental Congress.

Far beyond any such considerations as these, however, exceptional interest must attach to today's launchings in view of the critical times. There have been added thereby to the rapidly-growing merchant fleet of the United States two modern units for that chain of shipping that must be maintained intact if we are to keep flowing into our Country the much-needed raw materials for defense, and if we are to continue delivering life-giving supplies to those nation now engaged in a struggle to the death against Hitlerism and its accompanying evils of national and individual slavery.

We hear much today about tanks and planes and guns. And rightly so, for they are absolutely essential to adequate defense in today's mechanized war as it has been developed by the dictator nations. Those tanks and planes and guns will be of little avail, however, unless they are supplemented by a merchant marine of a size not only to keep basic supplies and war materials moving freely, but also to insure replacements for shipping sunk by enemy raiders.

As Marylanders, therefore, it is a double inspiration to us to witness this imposing evidence of Maryland's achievements on the National Defense front. President Roosevelt has declared that America must be the Arsenal of Democracy. Certainly in such an Arsenal, Maryland deserves to be rated at least as an incubator of defense, for between the shipyards of our State, our tremendous plane factories, our armanent plants, and the thousand and one supplementary defense industries now in full efficiency of production, Maryland is contributing to the defense effort far out of proportion to our size and population.

*Mrs. Herbert R. O'Connor was the sponsor of S S Roger B. Taney and Miss Mary Patricia O'Connor sponsored the Richard Henry Lee earlier the same day at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyards.