

DEFENSE BROADCAST—STATIONS WFBR, WTBO, WJEJ, WFMD,
WBOC, Maryland Coverage

December 16, 1941

Baltimore

The critical times demand frank discussion. In this spirit we undertake to discuss with the people of Maryland the actual facts confronting the State. The reason which makes such a course justifiable and necessary is that, in the "total" war in which we are engaged, every citizen is involved. The type of war as waged by Hitler and the Axis powers is total, because it threatens everyone; because it spares nothing. Consequently, to prepare adequate defense to such a "total" war the civilian population must play its part in resisting the invader.

Until recently our people planned and made their preparations so that they would be protected if war should come. Today we are making ready and have our preparations so that we will be protected when the attack comes. People are entitled to know that such an attack may come tonight or tomorrow or any day.

On Sunday, a State-wide meeting of defense officials, at Annapolis programed several weeks ago as part of State Defense planning became, by reason of last week's developments, a *Council of War*. So tonight's broadcast, forecasting what will happen here in case of attack, may well be termed a "Call to Arms." It is a call which every loyal resident of our State must heed.

Today we read that California has declared a state of emergency, in readiness for whatever may come. Tomorrow the threat may shift to the Eastern Seaboard, with perhaps the vital Baltimore-Washington area as the danger spot. were the target in that instance for the treacherous assaults of the Japanese. But lest we feel secure at this distance I feel it my duty to state that Federal officials inform me today that Maryland is in the "target area" on this Coast. We will be untrue to the memories of the Maryland boys who made the supreme sacrifice last week if we do not use this opportunity to prepare for defense and to avenge their deaths.

Danger is no longer confined to the fighting front. The expansion of air power has over-leaped distance and any barrier. The fact that we are today many miles from the enemy's headquarters is no guarantee at all of physical safety. Wars are no longer fought exclusively between the armed forces of contending nations. Our people are in danger and it must be said in all candor that the chances of attack are just as great in one place as in another, on the seas or behind the lines.

Our duty is plain. We must, as a people, and as individuals, cast aside once and for all any mental reservations we may have had. We must buckle down to work, to produce defense materials as we have never produced before, as we never believed it possible that we could produce.