

In the event that the Axis powers feel that they can attempt a "token" bombing of America to demoralize our people, it is felt quite generally that the place they would decide upon would be Washington, the Capital of the Country.

Knowing full well the steps that have been taken to insure protection of the Nation's Capital against any such raids, it seems entirely possible that any hostile bombers would be intercepted and turned back before they could drop their load of havoc and devastation. In that event, the enemy pilots will certainly attempt to get away with all possible speed, and to do this it will be necessary for them to "dump" their load of bombs.

As such an attack could come only from the East, the Axis planes would have to retreat to the East, across Maryland. Naturally, therefore, any bombs that they would "dump" to lighten their load, would be dumped upon Maryland and, most likely, upon the farming areas, because there are no particularly well populated areas in the course of such a possible retreat.

You have all read many times, I am sure, accounts of misfortunes suffered by "innocent bystanders." Without meaning to indicate in any way that the farm people of Maryland are merely bystanders in the all-out effort we are making for defense—for I know that they are contributing just as completely as any group could—nevertheless, as you can see from the foregoing, the "innocent bystanders" reference does have some application as far as you are concerned. I sincerely hope, however, you never will be called upon to face a bombing, whether intended for you or primarily intended for some vital governmental or defense objectives.

One of our great responsibilities is readying our State for any eventuality, is the question of informing all our people not only as to what is being done for their protection, but also as to their individual responsibilities in connection with defense.

In the matter of blackouts, for instance, it is entirely possible that lack of observance of the regulations on the part of one, or just a few, persons might well result in disaster to an entire neighborhood, because a few scattered lights glowing in the darkness might well attract enemy attention and bombs.

Of even more importance, is the possibility that such failure to comply with regulations might be the means of leading the bombing planes to highly important defense objectives, where millions of dollars worth of damage might be wrought, and where millions of sorely-needed man-hours might be wasted because of destruction to essential machinery.

The fact that such failure to comply with regulations might be due to inadvertence, and to lack of precise knowledge on the part of our people as to what was expected of them, would be poor consolation, indeed. In some ways it would be even more reprehensible than if the lack of compliance was due to a desire to assist the enemy, for it would be due entirely to our own lack of diligence in getting across to our people the information that must be conveyed to them.

In the century and a half through which our Nation has passed, in whatever emergency that faced our people, there has never been a vestige of doubt in the minds of any of our leaders as to where the farm population of our