

have only dreamed and hoped for— we have always possessed by the simple law of inheritance—the freedoms of worship, of popular assemblage, of justice before the law, and of equality before our fellow man.

All these blessings—and many more—have been ours. And how we stand in solemn trial—to be tested on our right to retain them. Have we deserved them? Have we used these opportunities to the greater good? Have we builded truly, honestly and for permanence? This House of ours—the Citadel of America—will it stand unshaken against the tempest? Will it remain a Fortress against which the Powers and Evil and the Hosts of Barbarism shall break themselves and fall apart?

We have these questions to face today. We shall not be allowed to avoid the pressing issues. For the torch has reached our temple door—the hand of the conqueror has advanced its bloody dagger—and we are in the process of the testing of our strength—not only of our military might, but of our moral fortitude, of the very fiber of our hearts and souls.

Here in Maryland we well understand the issues. The civil liberties and the pride of independence have been bred into our collective bones. Our danger does not lie in lack of understanding or in lukewarm spirits. But it would be an untruth if I said there is no danger. It requires no profound student of the Maryland mind to lay a finger on the one possible weakness of the American people. Call it complacency, call it an attitude of easy-goingness. Marylanders are eminently a temperate people. We have never been given to leaping off the deep end of our motions. We have taken a just pride in our ease and good companionship and the comforts of home. In a word, Marylanders are highly civilized in a way that does not cause them to become over-excited about many things.

This attitude, a thoroughly understandable one in peace-time, becomes a handicap in times of war. Our people require, perhaps, an extra effort to get them going. Organization tends to take a rather leisurely form. And all this despite the fact that our hearts are in the struggle, and that we were among the first of the American states to recognize Hitlerism as the particular enemy to be overthrown.

To say that our people are inclined to complacency, is in no way meant to belittle the efforts of leaders in organizations, nor to express lack of appreciation for the response that the people have thus far made to the many calls of Civilian Defense.

We have already done much, but there is so much more to be done. It would be, I think, a grave mistake and would constitute a lamentable misunderstanding of the Maryland mind to use fear as a method of appeal. In fact, the use of fear—the attempt to raise scareheads has probably contributed to the somewhat lackadaisical state of mind. We do not scare easily in the Free State. We do not burst out in frantic demonstrations of energy of dread forebodings. But this is a good place to recall that, once, long ago, the well-known easy-goingness of Maryland led to a calamity and a lost battle, which had to be redeemed once the real temper of the people had been aroused. I refer to