

Some day, in the not far distant future, the splendid airport for which ground was broken here today may well play a vital part in this coastline defense system. From it planes may be dispatched to intercept hostile forces many miles at sea. The fact that this new airport will be given rating among the Number One airports of the Country is a tribute to the County and City officials who furthered the movement, and also to the judgment of the Federal officials whose cooperation and assistance made the project possible. It will add another link to the chain of defense efforts that have lifted Maryland to a place of extraordinary prominence in the war-time activities of our Country.

As we progress deeper into war, with its ever radiating sphere of new activities, it is gratifying to state that on the pressing problems that now confront us we have not been caught napping. In the matter of possible sabotage, for instance, it is interesting to note that other states now are attempting to pass the Anti-sabotage Act passed at the 1941 session of the Maryland Legislature. It should be a comfort to the people to know that drastic penalties are provided by law now in Maryland in the event of any attempted sabotage. On the economic front, too, in view of the unemployment resulting during the period of change-over to war production in many industries, other states are now urging extension of the payment period of Unemployment Compensation from 13 to 16 weeks. Maryland has gone further than that, I am very pleased to say, in the legislation adopted at the Legislative session one year ago.

Many problems face us. Each one presents new complications, each one demands thought and application and courage in its solution. How well we meet them will determine, to a great extent, the success of our efforts in waging this war.

The first of war's inconveniences already is with us. Tire rationing has had repercussions everywhere, and its effects are only beginning to be felt. Nevertheless, it has impressed our people, as few other developments could, that we are in war, and that it is a war that cannot be pursued without dislocation of our everyday life and economy. As other articles are rationed and we find ourselves deprived of more and more of those things we have to look upon as necessities, the seriousness of our National situation will become more and more evident.

Unemployment, temporary perhaps, but nevertheless disturbing, has resulted from the efforts to transfer the mighty American peace-time industries to war footing. It was inevitable that such a change-over would bring temporary unemployment on a wide scale. Where civilian industries now employ 44,000,000 workers against 5,000,000 in the war industries, we must transfer 13,000,000 men and women from civilian to war production in the coming year, and an additional 7,000,000 two years from now. In other words, where 5,000,000 workers are now turning out guns and planes and tanks and other war materials, we shall need 25,000,000—five times the present number—before we can hope to realize the full war production figures which our Commander-in-Chief, President Roosevelt, has decreed.