

Your local Director, Mr. Sherwood, and all those who have cooperated with him in Civilian Defense efforts, and in arranging for this meeting, are deserving of the thanks of all the citizenry in this county. When they have been willing to devote so much time and effort and, on occasion, I have no doubt, their own resources as well, to this high purpose, it hardly seems possible that any one of our citizens would be laggard in doing the comparatively less onerous duties that might be asked of them.

While on this subject, it would seem important to go a little more into detail about the newest phase of Maryland's defense program; namely, the "Minute Men," concerning the organization of which units I spoke to the people of the State over the air on Tuesday evening. Let there be no misconception about the nature and purposes of the "Maryland Minute Men." There are established military organizations to take care of war functions or military defense. There is a Regular Army, whose fighting functions are well known. There is the State Guard, which I asked the 1941 Legislature to authorize so that we might have at hand a mobile, well-trained fighting force to call upon in case of disaster or sudden emergency.

Beyond, all of this, however, there is, in the light of the way this war is being carried on, a not-too-remote possibility that invasion forces may descend from the air or rise from the sea, or even conceivably might be organized by alien groups within our very midst. In calling, therefore, for the enlistment of "Maryland Minute Men," we are merely asking those among our citizens who possess arms, and who are accustomed to using them, to band themselves together, under proper supervision, of course, in units that will be readily available for the defense of particular communities if ever need should arise.

They will be citizen soldiers in the fullest sense of the word; their military training will be of the simplest nature. But I tell you this, that if parachute troops, for instances, should ever descend upon us from the skies, as they have in Crete, China, Java and so many of the conquered countries, the "Maryland Minute Men" will serve a most important purpose. The man who enrolls for this purpose will be undertaking a task of a most patriotic and a most useful nature.

Because of certain restrictions that have been enforced, in the consumption of commodities and foods, and because of the utter certainty that further and even much more drastic restrictions may be crowded upon us, I would say a word about the state of mind that seems so necessary for a proper understanding and acceptance of any of the regulations of this nature that may come.

If we think we have suffered deprivations to date because of the rationing of tires, automobiles, sugar and whatnot, and because so many smaller businesses have had to go out of existence from lack of materials, let me tell you, we have not seen anything.

It is necessary to prepare ourselves for further drastic shocks of this nature, that undoubtedly will have still further and more far-reaching effect upon every phase of our every-day life. Upon the attitude in which these restrictions are accepted will depend, to an increasing degree, the National