

distinct racial characteristics, which immediately render them suspects, and enable the authorities and people generally to keep them under close watch.

On the East Coast, however, there is absolutely no way to tell a potential saboteur. There are no racial or other characteristics by which they can be distinguished. In your own Country, for instance, there is no telling how many Axis agents are among the thousands employed in the County's vital industrial plants. Indeed, there is no way to ascertain whether such agents may actually be found among the military forces of our Country or State, or in what other capacity they may now be engaged, where they have free opportunity to strike telling blows.

What is feared is that sabotage may strike in a tidal wave, possibly in conjunction with a bombing or other hostile attack, when the attention of our military and police forces has been attracted elsewhere. It is, therefore, highly essential that every loyal American be constantly on the alert for any evidence of such projected attacks upon industries or other vital public facilities.

It is easy to understand why the authorities feel that their fears of sabotage are well-grounded. With the Burma Road virtually closed, and the Mediterranean no longer a safe passage for British convoys; with Australia seriously threatened, and Russia girding herself against the inevitable Spring Offensive which Hitler must make, we, with our great industries, are the key point of supply for the entire United Nations.

With this condition facing us, it can be appreciated why it was deemed advisable to add to our established military organizations the new Reserve Militia Units, to be known as Maryland Minute Men. The ready acceptance with which this latest call for enlistments has been met throughout the State, indicates that many of our people are alive to the dangers ahead, and are anxious and ready to do their part to cope with them. From the high type of men who already have joined, and who are helping to organize the Maryland Minute Men in their communities, I can assure you that Maryland will be proud of these units, and will be the more secure for their formation.

With a picture of the multi-phased warfare in our minds, we need not embellish the truth to say that there is no county in the United States where today's war efforts have a more definite meaning than right here in Baltimore County. It is one of the most important war industry centers in the Nation, with well over 100,000 persons engaged in just a few industries that I might mention, notably, the Glenn Martin Plant; Bethlehem Steel, the Eastern Rolling Mills; the Cotton Duck Mills, at Oella; and right here in Towson, or adjacent, Black and Decker, Bendix Radio and Julian P. Friez Company. And there are many, many other, all of them important.

Before the end of this war is reached, the total of fighting planes, of cargo ships, of ammunition, of clothing, of steel, and other vital war materials turned out in Baltimore County alone, will be greater than the total capacities of some of the smaller countries engaged in the war.

Because the County is so tremendously important from a war preparation standpoint, however, it faces at least one tremendous problem, upon the solu-