

Radio Station WFBR October 14, 1942

## VICTORY RALLY-SHIPBUILDING WORKERS

Fifth Regiment Armory

Baltimore, August 30, 1942

The patriotic action of the four Locals of shipyard workers sponsoring tonight's meeting, is an example that every true American can well note and imitate. It is truly another instance of that splendid spirit of cooperation that from the outset of the war has inspired the workers in Maryland's great shipyards to accomplish almost unbelievable feats of production.

The triple purpose of this gathering, first, to focus attention upon the necessity for increased shipyard production efficiency; second, to boost war bond sales and third, to enlist many thousand additional blood donors, cannot fail to be of immediate interest to everyone. Everyone here, and throughout our State, will join with me in congratulating the Unions for their work in connection with this event, and in wishing them the most complete success along all three lines of endeavor to which the meeting is addressed.

Naturally, the most spectacular elements in this world-wide war for Democracy are the ones that attract most public notice, and hence register strongest upon the public mind. However, though the men in the shipyards have not the opportunity for accomplishments of daring and individual bravery that make the front pages of the papers, none the less the work they are doing, day in and day out, under all conditions of weather, ranks equal in importance with the daring exploits of our fighting men on all fronts.

Let me give an example: The whole world has been thrilled by the heroic action of the great people of Russia. And no one will deny that the superb defense offered by the Russian armies, a defense that really can be said to have saved the United Nations by giving them time to build up their war machines, was helped by the achievements of the men who built the ships to carry the needed war supplies to the Soviet Union.

Likewise, only ships, and plenty of them, could have paved the way for America's successful participation in the defense of Australia and the most recent Victory over the Japanese in the Solomons Islands.

Despite the tragic number of sinkings in the North Atlantic, it was the work of the men in Maryland and other shipyards that maintained the vital lifeline for supplies and reinforcements to England, to Hawaii and Midway, and to the many other scattered outposts where American and United Nations Forces have entrenched themselves at strategic points.

Many of these battle stations that have been taken over are comparatively unknown to the general run of American people. But, like the successful attack on the Solomons Island, they were fortified because many such