

strategic springboards for attack will be necessary when the full tide of United Nations strength begins to roll, and America and her Allies set out on the big push that will send the Japanese reeling back to Tokyo.

The world, in times of war, has been accustomed to looking upon the military and naval uniform as a badge of distinction which any man or woman might be proud to wear. Today, with ships and mechanical equipment of every type playing such a vital role in the defense of Democracy, the overall of the shipyard and other production soldiers have taken on a similar note of distinction. The man in the shipyards or on any production line who does his utmost to increase and to better the production of his plant, deserves all praise and consideration because his task, tedious as it undoubtedly is at times, and lacking the thrill of military and naval duty, unquestionably must be difficult at times to maintain at the utmost efficiency.

It is distinctly in order, therefore, as I'm sure that everyone within the sound of my voice will agree, to salute with honor the men who are responsible for this meeting tonight, and all the men in Maryland's shipyards, in the plane factories and in all the other vital industries, for the successful part they have played in furthering to the limit Maryland's great contribution to the National war effort and to the preservation of freedom he world over.

If Labor ever has deserved the fullest support and commendation of all the people of the land, it has done so in the perilous months since Pearl Harbor. On repeated occasions I have said publicly that no group in America is more patriotic than Labor. There never was any doubt that Labor would hold up its end because America is fighting to maintain the kind of government that guarantees rights to such organizations. Then, too, America must win this war, because we must continue the social gains that have been won in an up-hill struggle. Civilization would be put back centuries if the dictators got control of the world. Legislation and legal guarantees for the working man would mean nothing under their systems.

It was natural, therefore, that the great body of American Labor would make their No. 1 job, the winning of this war. They realized, and they accepted without question, the responsibilities that were theirs in the matter of production. They knew that the successful waging of the war on its many fronts would demand every ounce of efficiency, and like good soldiers, they rallied to the cause. The result has been one of which Maryland and the Nation may well be proud.

As we look about us in the world today, despite recent Allied successes against the treacherous Japanese, there is little room for comfort in the situation. With our Country threatened as never before in all its long history, and with many millions of once-free peoples throughout the world now suffering the most bestial type of bondage, every American citizen must be prepared to accept his duties and responsibilities, and to put every ounce of his energy into this National war effort.

Entirely appropriate is it, therefore, that meetings like this be held, to reawaken in our people true appreciation of what America means, and of their responsibility to give everything they possess, their labor, their money, their blood, to defend it in this grave emergency.