

SCRAP COLLECTION MEETING WITH NEWSPAPER EDITORS AND
COUNTY CHAIRMEN STATE HOUSE,

Annapolis

October 13, 1942

It is a very happy privilege to have the opportunity of meeting, for a second time, with the newspaper editors of the State. Some months ago you responded nobly to an appeal to confer with me on the then very important matter of acquainting the public with the State's Civilian Defense Program. Today, in coming again to Annapolis is to confer with the County Scrap Campaign Directors, and with the heads of the Salvage Collection Campaign throughout the State, you have once more given evidence of the willingness with which you have accepted the tremendously important duties laid upon you in connection with the war effort.

In a free Country, where every man is entitled to thinking his own thoughts, the public press has ever been the most important single factor in molding public opinion. When that press reflects the united American mind and its determination to see this war job through to a successful conclusion, it is performing a public service, the value of which, in this present crisis, and to the future of free people everywhere, cannot be evaluated properly.

The newspaper men of Maryland and of the entire Country, publishers and editors alike, were quick to grasp the necessity—the very vital necessity — of getting to our steel mills the many thousands, even millions of tons of scrap metals that, throughout the years, had accumulated throughout the Country. By accepting full responsibility for the promotion of the Scrap Collection Campaign, the newspapers have enlisted in the war for freedom even more effectively if possible than if every member of their staffs had joined the armed forces.

You have heard the expression "Oil is ammunition, Use it wisely". Without any exaggeration, it can be said that "Steel is Victory" and by helping to insure adequate supplies of the scrap that is so essential to America's steel production, you have advanced the cause of freedom immeasurably on the long and difficult road to victory.

In greeting you here today, therefore, on behalf of the people of the entire State, I wish to congratulate and thank you for the efforts that have been so splendidly imitated in all the counties of the State. The newspapers are entitled to the thanks of our people for their wholehearted and successful leadership in the Salvage Campaign, which is so essential to the furtherance of the war effort.

One thing that impresses itself with increasing force, as we progress in our WAR EFFORT, is the necessity for imparting to all of our people, in every section of the State, the reason why, and the full information regarding, what is needed to WIN THE WAR.