

The defense program of the Nation will have a very important bearing on the utility situation in Maryland, and will affect it in various ways. In this program the State of Maryland, both by reason of its geographic situation and the location within the State of a number of the largest and most important munitions, airplane, shipbuilding, steel and other industries, is in a position of vital importance, and it is imperative that the utilities of the State expand their facilities so as to insure sufficient and satisfactory service not only to the industrial plants themselves but to the large number of persons who will be employed therein, many of whom will live in the housing developments which are being located adjacent to some of these plants.

Fortunately, the larger electric utilities of the State already have made plans, and have received the Commission's approval thereto, for the substantial additions to their generating equipment which are considered to be necessary. Most of the new units are now in course of manufacture. The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City almost has completed a new building in the central section of Baltimore, in which will be located the Company's administrative offices as well as certain exchanges serving the downtown area of the City and, in addition to this, major additions to the toll and exchange facilities of the Company to provide for the increasing demands for service are well under way.

MARYLAND STATE POLICE

The activities of the State Police Force, under the administration of Colonel Beverly Ober, have greatly increased. Money has been provided to appoint for each of the sub-stations a civilian clerk to maintain the sub-station records and operate the radio and telephone. With this in effect, nine patrolmen were released from sub-station duty. With the assistance of WPA projects, several of the sub-stations have been improved and repairs made to all nine.

Funds have been provided for training, the result of which was that the new men taken on the force in the fall of 1939 were given five weeks intensive training before being released to the sub-stations for duty. In the winter of 1940 the entire force was given a "Refresher Course" of two weeks, and it was possible to accomplish the certification of every member on the force in first-aid, with the authority to wear the Red Cross emblem. A study of "Selective Enforcement" was undertaken and instituted throughout the State.

Following the recommendations of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, with Bruce Smith of the Institute of Public Administration as advisor, the Department was reorganized to enable it to expand and increase its efficiency. Two new steel towers were erected, one at Waterloo and one at Conowingo, and radio communications of the department were materially benefited.

Future plans for this department include the extension of radio facilities, with special reference to the Cumberland sub-station, where the present equipment has not sufficient power to cover the mountain area. The building up of radio facilities is important in order to "tie-in" men on patrol with the general situation.

Recommendations have been made to increase substantially the size of the force, and for the distribution of this force throughout the State, in order to enable the troopers to be in a position to cooperate promptly with any local police forces in an emergency, and more adequately to patrol the highways.