

CAROLINE COUNTY DEFENSE DEMONSTRATION

Denton, May 31, 1942.

TODAYS demonstration of Caroline County's strength in regard to Civilian Defense has been both timely and heartening. It is because it has been but a few days since the Secretary of War solemnly warned the Country to expect a Japanese bombing raid, and there is no telling where that bombing raid may strike.

It might be thought that such a raid, if made by Japan, would more naturally strike the West Coast than the East. Nevertheless, there is no certainty that our State and Caroline County may not sooner or later be subjected to hostile attack and be put to the necessity of giving evidence under actual emergency conditions of the efficiency of its war defense preparations.

It is heartening, also, because of the concrete testimony that has been presented to the effect that Caroline County is ready for attack—that its various Civilian Defense activities are well organized, and that those who have volunteered, know the jobs expected of them and are ready and capable of carrying them out.

It is fortunate, indeed that Civilian Defense preparations have progressed so speedily and so satisfactorily for by now it has become apparent to the American people that although we have been at war only six months, the Axis nations have been at war with us for several years.

What happened at Pearl Harbor was no over-night effort by Japan. The stealth and treachery of that infamous nation has been in the making longer than we can know. Likewise it is clear that the U-boat campaign launched by Germany was not dreamed up by Hitler in an idle hour. No, while we were at peace our enemies were at secret war. In that realization we can understand how they got the jump on us, and what a vast reorganization is still necessary before the United States puts forth its entire gigantic effort for making war.

Let it be said, however, that the output of strength by America up to now has been *most encouraging*. Whoever needs proof of that can ask either our enemies or our Allies. A very good witness to America's awakening would be the Japanese Navy chiefs who are at present engaged in scanning the seas for remnants of that oce-mighty flotilla which moved so confidently into the Coral Ses.

It wasn't very long ago that the Japs were tauntingly asking us, "Where is the Pacific Fleet?" Well, they have had their answer, and a very convincing one it turned out to be.

Or an inquiry concerning American participation in the war might be addressed to Australia, that continental island which a month or so ago stood full in the path of the Yellow Juggernaut. The Australians also scanned the sea and presently there was shown to them a covey of transports bringing dough-