

In referring to the participation in the war effort of patriotic Marylanders, without thought of political affiliation, I cannot overlook the thousands who are performing arduous tasks that make great demands upon their time and convenience. 200,000 Marylanders are participating with all their hearts in the protection of the home front. As Air Raid Spotters, in the Air Craft Warning Service, as Auxiliary and Firemen, as Nurses Aides, or in the other units, these men and women have demonstrated their readiness for service in dire emergency.

Also, let it be said that the services rendered to the State and the Nation by the members of Selective Service Boards, by the various Appeal Agents and the Advisory Boards and Medical personnel, have been of the highest order and are deserving of the everlasting gratitude of the people of Maryland. The Selective Service System in Maryland has been described by Federal Officials as the highest order.

In the State Guard and in the Maryland Minute Men, both organizations of which were set up with the complete cooperation and approval of the Army officials in this area, are nearly 20,000 more splendid Maryland citizens, of both political parties, who have devoted many hours of their time to preparing themselves for the defense of their State and its people.

One more point that I think deserves consideration by our people at this time is the matter of Federal-State cooperation in the war. After all, the United States is composed of 48 units, and unless all these units work in close harmony with the Federal Government, the war effort can never function at fullest effectiveness. As far back as 1940 it was our privilege to assist the then Attorney General of the United States, Robert H. Jackson, now on the Supreme Court, to organize the first Federal-State conference on war problems. In company with the present Attorney General, Francis Biddle, I was privileged to preside over sessions of that gathering and succeeding conference.

In my capacity as a member of the Executive Committee of the Governors' Conference, it was my duty to work with the heads of the Federal War Agencies, looking to increased participation by the states in the war effort. Now, as Chairman of the Governors' Conference, it is my privilege to act on behalf of all the states in matters requiring Federal and State cooperation. It is hardly necessary to point out the value of such cooperation to our State and the desirability of continuing this arrangement.

It has not been by accident that Maryland has assumed a place in the war industrial effort far out of proportion to her size. Nor is it accidental that this war effort has been expanded continually without any subversive or retarding developments. Under your State Administration, labor and industry have worked shoulder to shoulder for the common good.

How successful the Maryland war effort has been, I should prefer to leave to other to say. However, it is gratifying that every Federal official from President Roosevelt down, who has expressed himself on the subject, declared that the contribution by this State has been entirely satisfactory. The most recent pronouncement was made by Mr. Joseph B. Eastman, the head of the