

INDUSTRIAL UNION COUNCIL, SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
MARYLAND--D.C.

December 7, 1942

Baltimore

It is quite appropriate that your Sixth Annual Convention opens today for, undoubtedly, December 7 will be always noted in the history of Labor in America. In passing, I might say in all sincerity, that your organization here in Maryland, as well as Nationally, may well take deep pride in the very splendid cooperation that has been advanced in all phases of industry's effort for Victory.

This has been a momentous year in America's history. Fantastic accomplishments have been achieved, through the cooperation of the patriotic men and women working in America's great industrial plants. It would be worse than folly, however, to say that enough has been accomplished, or to attempt to give anyone assurance that we are "over the hill" in the matter of war preparation and production.

We distinctly are not. You have only to read the front pages of the papers to realize the gigantic task facing America in this war. Men and women who have helped to make ships and tanks and planes and guns know perhaps better than the ordinary citizen, how many hours of labor are entailed in the production of every one of these highly important units. When, therefore, it is noted that in the African campaign, which, important as it was, is still but one phase of our far-flung activities, there were engaged approximately 850 vessels, of which 500 were devoted to the transport of troops and supplies, it is possible to gauge the industrial effort entailed.

We all know that to produce those 500 ships and the supplies they carried, required man-hours to a total that would be staggering to compute. By the same token, the American expeditionary forces that landed during the past week at New Zealand was the result of countless hours of labor, and every shipment to the Far East or to England or to Africa or to Iceland, every offensive undertaking in Guadalcanal, or New Guinea, or wherever else military tactics may dictate, is entirely dependent upon, and would be impossible without, the continuing all-out cooperation of our millions of laboring men and women.

Here in Maryland, we are very proud of the relations existing between management and labor. Likewise, we are deeply gratified at the results achieved by the Maryland Labor Victory Board, in the initiation and conduct of which the Congress of Industrial Organization has played so important a part.

Well may we be proud too, of the momentous contribution made by the men and women of Maryland in the many great industrial plants located within our State. It can be said without fear of contradiction that, in respect to size and population, there is no State in America that has made a greater contribution to the industrial productive phase of the war.