

with better tools to perform their vital services. Both groups, I know, will do better jobs with them. I am pleased, also, to observe the close cooperation that exists between those who are engaged in training for fire prevention and fire protection and those engaged in training for civil defense. You are, as I have suggested, engaged in common pursuits — the protection of the people against disasters — and it is proper that you should share, as you are doing here, facilities in common.

The State of Maryland has achieved a most enviable reputation nationally and internationally for the quality of the fire protection it offers its citizens. And as one who has been associated intimately with our program for a great many years, I can assert with some authority that this achievement is due in no small part to the caliber of the training that has been carried on in this Fire Service Extension Department of our University of Maryland, where so many persons have been trained in the skills and techniques of fire fighting and fire prevention

For quite a few years, the Maryland Civil Defense Agency, working with the civil defense organizations of the counties of Maryland and Baltimore City, has conducted extensive training programs on a variety of civil defense problems. Just a few days ago, General Van Brunt, the Director who is with us here today, reported to the Maryland County Commissioners Association that more than 11,000 Marylanders have received civil defense instruction during the past year, and that many thousands of others had received such training in prior years. We are extremely proud of the fact that our State Troopers, our forestry personnel, our game wardens, our tidewaters fisheries inspectors — all have received extensive instruction in radiological monitoring. Key employes in other State departments have been given similar training. On the local level, hundreds of fire fighters and police officers have been given instruction. Along with continued instruction of State employees, these people, both paid and volunteer, will continue to be offered the opportunity to acquire skill in civil defense protective techniques. Just within the past two weeks, I am told, a sizable group from many sections of the State completed an advanced course in heavy duty rescue.

I have been pleased to learn that the civil defense program of locating, marking and stocking of fallout shelters has been preceeding quite well in recent months. Up to the present time, I am advised, shelter space for more than 600,000 persons has been provided, and survival stocks such as food, water and medical supplies for nearly 300,000