

opinions I have about how we, at the State level, working in partnerships with you, at the local level, may achieve the kind of government that will insure the happiness and prosperity of the people we serve.

But first, let me say that I have observed with much interest the operation of the State Association of County Commissioners and have noted with deep gratification the progress it has made in bringing about a more efficient and more effective government in the counties of our State.

Since I took office as the Chief Executive of the State, I have sought to achieve a greater degree of cooperation between the State Government and the government of the counties and municipalities. I have encouraged State officials and State agencies to assist local governments in every way possible. It is never an easy matter to determine where local government ends and where government at the state or federal level begins. We know there is an overlapping of authority and responsibility in many of the phases of government. Public education and public welfare, in which all three participate in varying degrees, are good examples of this sharing of functions on the three planes of government . . . .

I think the record of my Administration will show that it has not shirked its responsibilities, but has, on the contrary, sought to assist local governments with the mounting burdens they must assume, financially and otherwise. In education, in public health, in public welfare, in the construction and maintenance of highways, in planning and zoning, in economic development, the State has helped, and will continue to help, local governments with their problems . . . .

All of you are familiar, I know, with the role the federal government has assumed, under the new Area Redevelopment Act, in the economic development of areas suffering from chronic unemployment or underemployment. Mainly as a result of the alertness and industry of the Department of Economic Development, Maryland had two of the first eight projects in the country approved under this recently established federal program.

You are familiar, too, with the plans announced by the President to expand and intensify our national effort in military and civil defense. We have a program in Maryland, which I hope to announce within a short time, to gear the economy of our State to this federal effort, with the twofold hope that our industrial plants may render