

area, continued with construction on Routes 50 and 40 and completed work on many other roads. Our program for the care and treatment of our mentally ill is expanding in a most satisfactory manner. In 1962, two of our mental hospitals received accreditation, and, with the completion of improvements now underway, we are hopeful that others will be accredited soon.

In the general election of last November, the people of the State ratified our permanent plan to establish supervisory and regulatory authority over savings and loan associations. They also approved our legislation establishing the municipal court for Baltimore City with full-time judges. Our program of economic development is now moving ahead at full speed, bringing into our State many millions of dollars of new business investment and creating thousands of new jobs. We are beginning to see now the fruits of our labors to rehabilitate the vital oyster industry in the Chesapeake Bay and other tidal waters, and, while it is too early to adjudge the final results of our vast new shell-planting program, there is every indication that we have seen a halt to the downward trend in the oyster yield and may expect steady advancements in production during the years ahead.

Our efforts on behalf of public education have been increased, at the primary and secondary levels as well as in higher education. During the past year, we have been engaged in laying the foundation for expanding our system of public higher education to meet what we foresee as a doubling of enrollments within the next ten years. With plans already laid, we expect to see this expansion begin in 1963.

In the short time we have here today, I could not hope to cover in detail all the achievements of 1962 and all the expectations of 1963. Suffice it to say that the year now coming to a close has been a good one, and all of us are looking hopefully to the future. As we celebrate the beginning of a New Year, I, as your Governor, am resolved to carry on with vigor and determination our effort to give the people of Maryland good government, efficient government, effective government during 1963. And now, to conclude, Mrs. Tawes and I extend to all of you our best wishes for happiness, good health and good fortune next year and in all the years ahead.

A happy New Year to all of you.