

volved in determining a course of action that will significantly affect our State and its citizens for years to come. One learns the true meaning of humility under such circumstances. No one individual is qualified to bear this burden alone. The government of this State is a cooperative venture which requires the participation of all our citizens if it is to be successful. The elected legislative representatives of the people of this State are now meeting and their actions in the next several months will determine the progress that will be made here in Maryland for the next several years. It is my earnest prayer and hope that their deliberations will meet with success.

Since Maryland is not a large State in either area or population, we cannot hope to impress this great nation with our physical stature but we can impress our sister States by our actions. Let us strike out boldly to chart courses that will demonstrate that leadership in government is not determined by size and population alone. Let us demonstrate that Maryland is keenly aware of those problems that face our society today and is capable of meeting and solving those problems. The challenge that faces Maryland and indeed all the States of this great nation is to show, by example, that we can indeed perform the functions and exercise those powers that were reserved to us by the framers of the Constitution. Rarely in this century have the States of this union been called upon to demonstrate their ability to cope with the many problems that exist now.

To my mind, we in Maryland can best demonstrate our capabilities by being flexible and by cooperating with federal and local governments in solving problems together. We cannot operate in a vacuum. We cannot cling to the past doggedly refusing to abandon old philosophies when they cannot possibly apply to current conditions. We have seen cooperative ventures with other levels of government work wonders in slum clearance, in highway building, in providing adequate welfare and education programs. I think these cooperative ventures among the various levels of government have demonstrated that the future role of the state in this nation is to promote these joint efforts. To do otherwise, in my mind, is to perform a disservice to our citizens. In joining in these cooperative ventures, however, let us always remember our primary objective of promoting health and prosperity among our people. Let us work together in developing our natural resources, in preserving our open spaces and park lands, in providing employment for our workers and education for our children, in providing medical facilities for our sick and indigent, in providing a sound financial structure. It is my belief that such a cooperative effort benefits all.