

term as Governor of Maryland, I should report to the people of Maryland concerning the management of their affairs during this period. After all, a public official is a trustee, and the people he serves are the beneficiaries of his governmental activities, in proportion to the faithfulness with which he discharges his duties and responsibilities.

I am prompted to come before you with this report because I am convinced that by and large the people of Maryland and of our Nation are taking a more thoughtful interest in the workings of their government, and are increasingly more concerned with the accomplishments of those to whom they entrust high office. It is in order to give you a direct and official report, as well as to invite your further cooperation in the things that lie ahead, that I take the liberty of discussing in detail the results of the first chapter in this administration's work.

The government of more than a million and a half people such as live in Maryland cannot be a mere matter of abstract policy. It goes far beyond the making and administration of law. More and more in this disturbed era government is coming out of the legislative chamber and council room and is going directly into the homes and hearts of the human beings it represents. So tonight, as a loyal Marylander who has been entrusted temporarily, with the serious duty of guiding the destinies of our State, I feel that the surest way to a complete understanding and accord between the State Administration and the people of our State is to acquaint you with a record of the things we have striven to do, and of what we believe has been accomplished.

Let me at the outset state very frankly that we have not succeeded in accomplishing all that this Administration has undertaken to achieve. Much remains to be done, but this much can be said without fear of successful contradiction:—substantial progress has been made, in addition to the reforms already completed, toward the fulfillment of the other pledges and promises made at the outset of the Administration.

One year ago, I stood on the portico of our historic State House in Annapolis and, in making humble acknowledgement of the honor that had been conferred upon me, pledged myself to certain definite aims and purposes. At the very outset I emphasized the acute fiscal situation confronting our State, and promised that the unsatisfactory state of our finances then existing should be corrected and corrected promptly. It was declared to be my firm belief that, as Marylanders proud of our State traditions, we must so arrange our affairs as to live within our income; that we must cease the dangerous practice of borrowing to pay current State expenses; and that we must put an immediate stop to the diversion to other uses of gasoline tax monies that had been dedicated to the vastly important work of building and maintaining our roads.

In the inaugural address mention was made of the momentous social problems that faced us; of the necessity of providing for the poor and unfortunate in our midst, the aged, the dependent young, the blind. But it was made clear that this whole matter of humanitarian assistance was not a temporary problem, to be treated on a hit-and-miss basis of special taxation, but that it was here to stay, for a long time at least, and that we must treat it on a long-range basis. I therefore recommended that provision be made in the State Budget for the funds necessary to carry on the various social and relief activities.