

## RESTORATION OF OLD SENATE CHAMBER DEDICATION EXERCISES

State House, January 23, 1941

Annapolis

**T**HIS important occasion, which marks the restoration of a definite link with Maryland's Colonial past, is one that gives me particular gratification, just as I know it is a source of deep satisfaction to everyone present, and to every history-conscious resident of our State.

The story of Maryland's early history, and of our State's important part in the Colonial phase, let me call it, of our Country's existence, is too glorious a one ever to be forgotten. This Old Senate Chamber, situated as it is in one of the two State Houses of our Country which go back to pre-Revolutionary days, is a priceless heritage from the past that will be for all time to come, I hope, a reminder of Maryland's conspicuous achievements in the founding and successful establishment of the United States of America.

It is significant that we are gathered today in the Chamber where the Continental Congress met to settle the complex problems that faced the new Nation following the Revolutionary War, at the very moment that, in Washington, the successors of that Congress are wrestling with new and highly complicated matters connected with the wars now raging throughout most of the world.

I trust that the wisdom and the courage with which our early Congress met their problems here in this Old Senate Chamber will be duplicated in the halls of Congress in Washington during these present deliberations and those to come, so that our national leadership today may lead us safely out of our troubles in the same degree that our Continental forefathers met and solved their problems here in this historic Old Chamber.

With this Chamber restored as closely as possible to its original atmosphere and furnishings, with money we were happy to appropriate, we now have a State House that will truly be worthy of the interest of the many thousands who come here each year from far away states to view it. Not only is this room established as a permanent focus for such historical visitations, but the entire State House, I am happy to say, reflects the effort that had been made to bring it to its fullest glory.

Physically, in the matter of painting and general repairs, the State House is, I believe, in the best condition that it has been in the memory of anyone here present. Furthermore, throughout the past eighteen months, while this restoration was in progress, similar constructive efforts were being expanded on the many paintings of historic value which adorn the walls of our corridors, chambers and offices. They are all in uniformly splendid condition. Most of them have been cleaned and the frames repaired, and I would call your atten-