

MARYLAND DAY

University of Maryland, March 25, 1941

College Park

IT is not without reason that Marylanders pause in their daily pursuits and today hark back to the beginnings of our State and take pride in its origin. We cannot help but realize that we are the beneficiaries of her traditions, of her natural blessings and of her noble ancient name.

We do not commemorate merely a landing of pilgrims over three centuries ago. The exceptional fact which Marylanders throughout history shall always commemorate, is that these settlers had very definite and avowed purposes underlying their expedition.

They decided to establish a settlement where individual liberty and freedom of thought would prevail. Above all, the Maryland Pilgrims made their stand for the dignity of the human race. From the very outset, Maryland became the sanctuary of those unhappy exiles.

Three hundred years and more have not altered the spirit of the Maryland Pilgrims. This spirit survived the War of the Revolution. It displayed itself at the Annapolis Tea Party, with the burning of the Peggy Stewart; at the Battle of North Point, which gave us the Star Spangled Banner. The same spirit resides today in our people, who still maintain their right to decide their own problems, without unnecessary interference and without recourse to prejudice or backward-looking.

We speak about Maryland's past and Maryland's present—what of Maryland's future? That depends, as every man knows in his heart, upon our own sincerity and staunchness. The beginnings of our State were Liberty and Opportunity. We shall continue to be free as long as we are strong, and strong as long as we are united against enmity, within and without. That word "disunity" no longer has the political and geographical sense in which our forefathers used it.

It is not now a question of asking for harmony between Whig and Tory, between North and South, as was true in earlier days. But today the potential rifts are in ideology, in the functional overlapping of our complex economy. It is here that our enemies will try to drive the wedge and where we must take care to prevent even the appearance of division. We shall be free, as long as farmer and industrialist, laborer and contractor and soldier and John Smith, taxpayer—all relegate their individual interests to the proper sphere, and all gear their efforts to the common cause.

As surely now as ever before—we must pull together or be pulled apart.

Will there be Opportunity? In the 17th Century people seeking to be free had to look for new frontiers. They found them in the New World. Today, once more, the oppressed peoples look in this direction. We still repre-