

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
BEL AIR ARMORY, October 19, 1942.

Bel Air

Four years ago I stood before an audience in Bel Air and promised my unqualified support of the public school system of Maryland. I stand before you tonight to give an account of my stewardship in this respect, and to point the way in which our excellent school system may be improved during the years ahead. Let me say again that I am proud of the standing of our school system, and I repeat my promise that I shall do all within my power to maintain the standing of the educational system, all the more important because of the trying times in which we live. Further, if reelected, I shall exert every possible effort to bring about desirable improvements in the years to come.

The first promise I made to you here four years ago was that "my appointments to the State Board of Education will be men and women of the highest type, selected because of their knowledge of, and interest in, school affairs. No tinge of politics, however faint, shall ever be allowed to influence the administration of school affairs. I am pledged to a non-partisan, non-political, efficient, and forward-looking School Board." I have kept that promise. The first appointment it was my privilege to make to the State Board of Education was that of the President of the Board, Mr. Tasker G. Lowndes, a man of the opposite political faith but one whose integrity of purpose, high sense of duty, and interest in public education made him ideally fitted for this continued responsibility. My other appointments have been made with the same purpose in mind. I pledge myself to a continuation of that policy.

The second promise I made was that I would provide adequate support of public education, not only to maintain the minimum standard of education but to expand it wherever needed and wherever possibly. During the four years of my Administration the public schools of the State received millions of dollars more than they received during the four years of the previous Administration. The support of all education by the State during my four years has been considerably greater than during the preceding Administration. The record speaks for itself.

Equalization of educational opportunity has become a reality for most high school children in Maryland counties through provision of transportation at public expense. Transportation to high school at public expense was available to 18,893 white county pupils in 1942 as compared with 14,356 in 1938, and to 3,512 county colored pupils in 1942 as compared with 2,983 in 1938. Four additional high schools for colored pupils were in operation in 1942, thereby extending to every county in the State, having a colored population, the opportunities for high school education. Transportation opportunities must be available so that no county boy or girl must be deprived of a high school education because he or she lives too far away to attend high school.