

# Bigger Than Life-Sized

By Francis Rackemann

It took four sittings (standings), copious sculptural notes and more than a year to capture the mood, facial expression and character in Reuben Kramer's over life-sized bronze bust of Maryland's outgoing governor.

Mr. Kramer's second bronze of Governor McKeldin is "not so much that of the family man but one of the first citizen of the State," said the noted Baltimore sculptor.

Four years ago, a group of Governor McKeldin's friends commissioned Mr. Kramer to make a bust of the executive for the mansion in Annapolis.

Mr. McKeldin said he will give this life-size bronze of himself to the University of Maryland after the holidays for permanent display in the university's new library named in his honor.

### Being Unveiled

The new bronze, which Mr. Kramer said is one and a half times life-size, is being unveiled today in the lobby of the new State Roads Commission building in Mount Royal plaza.

The bronze will be placed permanently in the lobby of the adjacent State Office Building expected to open next spring.

Mr. Kramer said a group of friends of the Governor decided two years ago to do something for Mr. McKeldin in recognition of his two terms in office.

Zandy Leaderman served as chairman of a group of 40 citizens who contributed to the bust.

### Read Papers

The Governor agreed to "sit" but spent all four sittings standing up reading papers which were tacked up on the wall for him, according to the model himself.

"It's an excellent likeness," the Governor said, adding that he enjoyed posing for Mr. Kramer whom he described as a "very competent" artist.

Of the Governor, Mr. Kramer said he was a good subject and has a "good solid head which lends itself to good sculptural form and interpretation."

Although Mr. McKeldin stood for four 1-hour and 10-minute long sittings, it took Mr. Kramer weeks to work out details from his notes, observations and his first bronze bust of the leading citizen. He likes his models to move about freely.

"It's always good to get a subject after lunch when he has forgotten his problems," said the sculptor in his studio located in the rear of 1201 Eutaw



**HIS EXCELLENCY**—A bronze cast of Reuben Kramer's oversized plaster bust of Governor McKeldin is being unveiled in the lobby of State Roads Commission building.

place. His studio is a converted carriage house once owned by Hopkins's noted surgeon, Dr. William S. Halsted.

### Argentine Granite

The bronze, cast progressively in clay, plaster, wax and finally the metal, will be one of three over life-size busts in the city when installed on its black Argentine granite base in its permanent place. The other busts are those of Presidents William

McKinley and Warren G. Harding, now located in the main Post Office.

Other leading citizens, which the prize-winning sculptor has cast in bronze, include a three-quarter relief of Henry Pittman Irr, Baltimore bank president and a life-size bust of Sam Epstein, East Baltimore department store owner.