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## CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

*Maryland, although a small state, is abundantly endowed with natural resources. From the timbered mountains of the Western counties to the bountiful waters of the Chesapeake Bay, the State's resources are many and diverse. Their conservation is a major responsibility of State government. Combatting soil erosion and water pollution and the protection of wildlife were areas of particular concern during this period.*

*Shortly after taking office, Governor Tawes commissioned a Water Resources Management Study by the State Planning Department. This study produced specific proposals for more effective utilization of the State's valuable water supply. To carry out their many responsibilities, the operating budgets of agencies under the State Board of Natural Resources were increased by more than 50 per cent during the Governor's first term.*

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### ADDRESS, MARYLAND LAND WEEK

#### STEVENSVILLE

September 14, 1959

It is gratifying and reassuring to see so many of you here and to observe the great interest that is being displayed by so many of our citizens in the conservation of the natural resources of our State.

Those of us who have heard the lectures or read the articles of Dr. Reginald V. Truitt know that in the not too remote eras of our past, strong nations have vanished and great civilizations have disintegrated because the soil which sustained them had been washed into the seas. Within the memory of people living right here in Maryland today, entire farms have disappeared into our Chesapeake Bay, the victim of shore erosion.

In an age when mankind is sending missiles into outer space—rockets to the surface of the moon—it is perhaps too easy for us to disregard the less dramatic and less spectacular phenomena which surround us, but phenomena which, in the long run, may have a more powerful effect upon our civilization than the ventures we are making today into outer space.