
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Party politics, the activity vital to the American concept of democracy, has been a central element in the long public service career of Governor Tawes. He has regarded the role of the Democratic Party in Maryland and the nation as central to the development of progressive, forward-looking programs. During his first term as Governor, he clarified his party leadership role by making numerous speeches both in campaigns and at Democratic Party meetings. Having risen from the ranks of local politics, he was completely at ease with grass roots political workers. Although a strong partisan, he emphasized the need for sound programs and competent Democratic candidates. To obtain support for his policies, he found it necessary to consult with local political leaders on appointments and other matters of mutual interest.

Early in his first term, and quite early in the Democratic presidential primary, the Governor warmly endorsed the candidacy of Senator John F. Kennedy. While reluctant to endanger party unity in Maryland by the divisive impact of a state presidential primary, when Senator Kennedy decided to file he made a strong statement of support.

The Governor made political speeches to many national party organizations. He also entertained many leading political figures, such as Senator Lyndon B. Johnson and Speaker John McCormack, during the 1960 campaign.

ADDRESS, NATIONAL VICTORY DINNER OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 28, 1959

I am indeed delighted to be speaking to you from this platform tonight. In my role as a "new governor" I am most deeply honored to be sharing this rostrum with some of my more experienced colleagues. Even though I have served 15 years as State Comptroller, there are problems in being governor that defy any kind of preparation or apprenticeship. I only hope the first 90 days are the hardest!