

I think that I should take a moment at the outset to identify myself in your minds—I belong to that very select group of individuals assembled here tonight who are neither avowed, nor unavowed, candidates for the 1960 Presidential nomination.

My ambitions for 1960 are simply stated—I ask only that I may be granted the privilege two years from now of standing in this hall again with you while we all join in a toast together to a newly-elected Democratic President of the United States!

With but few exceptions the Democratic tide swept over the entire nation last November 4th, leaving large Democratic majorities in the United States Senate, and in the House of Representatives; and electing 35 out of 49 governors of the states.

It is crystal clear what such an election means. It means that the Republican Administration has failed, and that in November, 1960, the voters will elect a Democrat to lead the country out of the wilderness in which it now wanders, without direction and without any understandable purpose. It means that the people of our country are turning, as they have always turned in times of crisis, to the Democratic Party—the Party of Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman.

In my own State of Maryland, we have counties that elected Democrats to office for the first time since the Civil War. Allegany County, in the western part of the State, sent its first Democrat to the State Legislature since 1914. Moreover, for the first time ever, the Democratic Party carried every single county and city district in the gubernatorial contest, and, along the way, piled up the biggest Democratic majority in the State's history. Many state legislatures have Democratic majorities considerably heavier even than that which exists in Congress. My own State of Maryland presents the almost unbelievable picture of a 123-member House of Delegates with only 7 Republicans, and a 29-member State Senate, with only 3 Republicans. (I understand that these three Senators hold their Republican caucus in a phone booth!)

But, my friends, after the first flush of victory dies, it behooves us to take a very sober second look at the picture presented by such a legislative line-up as I have just described. It takes very little imagination to see in this situation a tremendous opportunity—matched by an equally tremendous responsibility. We—and I believe I speak for all loyal Democrats—accept that responsibility, confident that the Democratic Party has the resources, the ambition, the will and the