

carried with its heavy responsibilities and many potential dangers... along with its bright promises and great opportunities.

In looking over the record of the State administration, I believe that we have much in which we can take pride; both in terms of promises fulfilled and pitfalls avoided.... In our legislative record we can point to a successful effort to hold the line on tax increases at a time when the State was in imminent danger of having to raise taxes for a second time in as many years.... We can point to solid steps forward in our traffic safety laws, in the re-organization of our State Highway Commission, and in Municipal Court Reform.... We can point to important steps already taken in the direction of a better State program for the aged, conservation of the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay, re-apportionment of the State Legislature, and the bringing of new industry and business into the State. Men and women of outstanding ability, many of them at great personal sacrifice, have made themselves available for service to our State. Highly qualified men and women have been appointed as heads and members of important State agencies, directors and members of commissions and members of study groups.

As to the pitfalls avoided... I believe that we Democrats have shown ourselves to be a mature and responsible political party.... At no time have we been tempted to make rash use of the unprecedented majorities at our command. At no time have we failed to give careful and deliberate consideration to the matters that have come before us, and to provide ample opportunity for the expression of all points of view.... By so doing our Party is daily proving itself worthy of the tremendous vote of confidence which our fellow citizens of Maryland gave to us last November... Moreover, with the Presidential elections only a little more than a year away, it is becoming more important than ever that we Maryland Democrats take steps to see to it that our Party organization continues to maintain its fighting edge, and in addition, begins to take definite steps to prepare itself for the decisive events of 1960.

It is my desire that you members of the local State Central Committees be called upon to play a more active part in the affairs of our Party. You should be invited to participate more fully in the formulation of Party policy. You should be the active agents for the Party in our State, not only at election time, but every day of the year. A properly staffed State Democratic Party headquarters should provide the means to accomplish this objective.

With this in mind, I have asked the new State Chairman to act as