

ADDRESS, DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES CONFERENCE

BALTIMORE

August 18, 1962

Let me preface my remarks to you today by noting that one of the duties of the Governor of Maryland is to appear before a joint session of the House of Delegates and State Senate each year and inform them of the progress that has been accomplished in the previous year and to outline plans for the future.

I fully expected to see all of you at the next session of the General Assembly when I once again perform this duty. As President Kennedy has pointed out so often, a chief executive must have the support of a majority of members of both Houses if he is to enact his programs. Here in Maryland, my friends, the situation is much the same. During the past four years, a Democratic legislature working in harmony with a Democratic executive branch has brought about unprecedented progress in all areas of state government. It is our task in this coming political campaign to insure that this progress continues to the benefit of all Marylanders. It is our task then, to insure the election of a Democratic legislature and a Democratic Governor. Through mutual assistance, we can accomplish this task. It was for this purpose that this conference was called today.

If we are to be successful in November, it is important that we fully understand the issues of the upcoming campaign. It is imperative that we know exactly what has been accomplished during the past four years and what we have in mind for the future. It is important that you people here know this information because you are the ones who must carry the message of the Democratic Party across the length and breadth of Maryland. You are the ones who must be equipped to counter the barrage of misinformation we can expect to emanate from Republican candidates as the campaign progresses. You are the ones who will determine whether or not President Kennedy will be given the necessary working majority in Congress so he may enact the vital programs that have been blocked by representatives of a party that is steeped in a tradition of negativism. You are the ones to determine whether or not the many dynamic programs we have begun at the state level will continue unabated or be hamstrung by a political party wedded to a "do nothing" philosophy. . . .

It is our hope that at the conclusion of today's conference you will have in your possession the information necessary to accomplish this