

Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland—with the electric energy they need now, and will need in years to come, to maintain their homes and operate their businesses. To those of us in government and elsewhere who are engaged in the important task of planning the orderly and healthy growth of Maryland, this Dickerson generating station of PEPCO has a special meaning. A healthy and orderly growth of our State demands careful, precise planning for its economic development, and, as we all know here, economic expansion in this age would be impossible without the production of adequate electric energy. Maryland has been generously endowed by nature with characteristics which have made it a place of pleasant and abundant living. The hills, valleys, woodlands and fields that spread out before us here afford man all the delights of nature he needs to live prosperously and happily. But the full life demands that man not only be provided with the necessities of food, clothing and shelter, but that resources surrounding him are sufficient to permit him to exercise to the fullest degree his instincts to build and to create. These resources the Maryland man possesses in great quantity.

The growth and development of our State over the past three centuries has been determined to a great degree by the wealth of its natural resources. Its early economy, primarily agricultural, was founded on the sound base of a fertile and productive soil. Commerce, and later industry, supplanted agriculture as the keystone of its economy, although agriculture, even today, is a vital part of it. The thriving city of Baltimore grew up around one of the finest natural harbors in the country, a seaport that permitted the thrifty and enterprising merchants of Maryland to trade with the peoples of all parts of the world. Railroads, canals and highways were built, opening up the West and creating a natural outlet through our State of the commerce of that region with the rest of the country and the rest of the world. The coal of Western Maryland, which we hope PEPCO will use in even greater quantities as the years go by, promoted a healthy, vital economy in Western Maryland—in cities like Cumberland and Hagerstown. A remunerative industry was built around our beautiful and priceless Chesapeake Bay with its great abundance of fish, oysters and other kinds of seafood. But an economy does not, and cannot, remain in a static condition. It either grows or it decays.

Understanding this, the states and regions of this country are competing keenly for industrial and commercial expansion. One state in the South last year added \$153 million to its basic industrial wealth by inducing new industries to locate there. If Maryland is to retain