

its favorable economic condition, it must enter spiritedly into this competition. One of the first decisions I made as Governor of Maryland was to establish a new State agency, the Department of Economic Development, whose responsibility it is to keep Maryland abreast or ahead of its competitors in the development of its economy. This Department is still in the fledgling stage and hence its worth cannot yet be appraised. But I have complete confidence in its leadership and no misgivings about its ability to reach the goals we have set. Maryland, as I have shown, has plenty to sell, and the selling job can and will be done.

I should like to discuss at some greater length the assets of Maryland and what we can do to improve them. And I should like to use as an illustration this part of Maryland in which we find ourselves now. This county—Montgomery—was described in an article that appeared in one of our metropolitan newspapers only a few days ago as one of the “richest, highest taxed and most prosperous” counties of the country. It enjoys the well-deserved fame of being one of the finest residential areas in the country, with attractive towns, villages and suburban communities, good schools, good roads, excellent park and recreational facilities. The median income for the entire county last year was nearly \$10,000, and the average value of new, single-family homes built in 1958 was approximately \$20,000. Situated as it is within the budding metropolitan area of our national capital and being as attractive as it is for gracious living, Montgomery County must of necessity grow and grow at an accelerated pace. The rate of the population growth of course is conjectural, but I note that the Washington Board of Trade is estimating that the county, with a population now of 350,000, will have 435,000 inhabitants in 1965 and 670,000 by 1980. Growth at such a rapid rate must be guided, controlled and regulated to escape what the planners call “Suburban Sprawl.” It is consoling to residents of the county, I know, to realize that they have a county government and a planning agency which is equipped to handle this situation and avert the disaster of a suburban sprawl. Montgomery County for many years has had excellent planning to provide for the orderly development of residential communities, shopping areas and employment centers. The quality of its planning has been a main factor in its development as one of the most prosperous counties in the nation.

Counties which become “bedroom” areas for adjoining big cities are likely to have serious problems of taxation and financing, and it is to the everlasting credit of Montgomery County planners that they