

I think we can pledge to the company here, as we dedicate this splendid new plant, the continued cooperation of the State and its counties in the tasks of the future.

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ADDRESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN  
TALBOT COUNTY  
EASTON

March 28, 1960

The development of Maryland's economy to its maximum capacity is one of the objectives I have set for my Administration. Until very recently, our State had done very little in an organized way to exploit its economic potential.

Last year, at my suggestion, the General Assembly created a new State agency, the Department of Economic Development, the purpose of which is to attract new business and industry to Maryland and to encourage the growth and expansion of the business and industry we already have. It is too early to expect many concrete achievements of the new Department, but I am pleased to report that it is getting off to an excellent start. As its director, we have chosen Mr. George Hubley, who is one of the outstanding men in the United States in the field of industrial development. Many of you have met him—we want you to know him and his associates better. Under his direction, the Department is now busy collecting and making available the basic economic facts about Maryland that will be used to induce business firms to locate here. Toward that end, it has embarked upon a project to compile economic data booklets on each of Maryland's industrial, or potential industrial, areas. Each of the booklets will cover a county, municipality or other geographical division which logically forms a coherent industrial entity. In this way, the activities of the Department will be directed at the practical goals of collecting economic data on the one hand and servicing inquiring industry on the other.

To achieve these purposes, the Department must acquire a staff large enough to keep in close personal touch with the various communities of the State and to offer personal service to industry executives coming into the State. At my request, the General Assembly this year appropriated an additional \$100,000 to finance the agency through its first full year of operation. We want to be certain that the services Maryland provides will be as useful and practical as