

I would begin with the observation that the next ten years promise to be the most eventful decade in the three-and-a-quarter century history of our State. We are living in an era of explosive population growth and a swiftly changing and expanding economy. Maryland is seventh in the nation in population growth, and among the East Coast states its growth is exceeded only by Florida and Delaware. The rapid population growth and economic development which we have witnessed over the past twenty years continues unabated, and the prospects for the next ten years are truly staggering. If present trends continue, the State, by 1970, will have made large gains in virtually all phases of economic activity. There will be a corresponding increase in the need for State and local public services and for a tremendous expansion of private investment to provide more jobs and a broader tax base. It is estimated that the civilian labor force, which totaled 1,096,000 last year, will reach 1,395,000 by 1970, an increase of 27.3 per cent. Assuming prosperous conditions, with substantially full employment, the number of employed persons would rise from the 1,015,300 of 1959 to 1,346,000 by 1970, a gain of 32.5 per cent.

Our school population may be expected to rise at an even more rapid rate because of the high birth rate since World War II. By 1970, the prospect is for a school enrollment of more than 1,000,000, as compared with the 680,000 children in school last year. The importance of jobs under conditions such as these is obvious to all of us. This is true because the number of employed persons is the basis of the economy, private and public. If public policies are framed with the view to maximizing the number of jobs in the State, many of the problems now vexing us will be much simpler to resolve.

What, then, is your State doing to meet the demands of the future? Early this year, Maryland embarked on a new program of economic development. Ours was one of the last two or three states to set up an official State Economic Development Program. The reason for the delay in setting up such a State agency, I think, is the fact that we had been doing so well in this field on our own natural momentum. Maryland industry has been expanding during the past several years at almost twice the national rate. In this great Baltimore metropolitan area alone, more than \$1 billion has been spent for industrial expansion during the past ten years. But competition has become keen among the states of the Union to locate new plants and new business within their borders, and one of the first proposals I made to the General Assembly after I was inaugurated as Governor was to establish a Department of Economic Development Although the Department