

lems confronting our underdeveloped Western counties were problems facing the entire Appalachian area. It was my thought that all of the states with portions of their territory in the Appalachians should get together and form some kind of regional organization to aid them in overcoming common obstacles. Such an organization was set up, and we believe the studies it conducted and the reports it made were factors which influenced the President and his advisers to formulate the program of area redevelopment and establish the Area Redevelopment Administration to administer it. In fact, the chairman of our Economic Development Commission, Mr. Harry A. Boswell, who worked so energetically to keep the Appalachian Conference rolling, was a member of the task force which prepared the ARA legislation.

As a result of our knowledge of, and early participation in, the program, Maryland has moved faster than most states in taking advantage of the assistance the federal government is offering. We were one of the first states to be assigned a full-time coordinator to aid us in securing federal assistance to promote job opportunities in distressed areas, and incidentally to help prevent the spread of distress to other areas. It is unfortunate that some communities of Maryland are not sharing in the general prosperity of the State. Garrett County and the cities of Cambridge, Cumberland and Hagerstown have been designated as "depressed areas" and thus are eligible for benefits under the program. Of the many hundreds of applications filed with ARA, two of the four Maryland areas were among the first eight to receive favorable responses from the agency. And one of these two applications—from Cambridge—resulted in the second ARA grant to be given in the United States. Cambridge was allotted \$213,000 to expand its sewer facilities to new industries which are locating there.

With this federal assistance, with the continued help of the state government and, of course, with the indispensable cooperation of the communities themselves, I have great confidence that distressed areas will vanish from our Maryland scene. And I have abiding faith, too, in Maryland's ability to remain in the front ranks in the march toward an expanded economy and a greater prosperity for all the people of this country.