

our State is in a strong and healthy condition. I certainly am not trying to leave the impression that I, or my Administration, have any control over the business cycle. Most of the credit for our economic achievement quite clearly must go to private enterprise and the people of the State. Your State government does not make steel, raise cattle or tong oysters.

On the other hand, I do not believe it can be said that it is by mere accident that Maryland ranks among the highest of the States in per capita income, in the value of its products and services. Businessmen simply do not build new manufacturing plants and expand those already in existence in an unfriendly and unwholesome economic environment. The strength and the stability of our business community in Maryland is not just a product of chance either. There are good and valid reasons why this condition prevails. Let me quote a paragraph from the report by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond on the question of Maryland's reaction to the business cycle, which, as one of my economist friends likes to quip, "has never been repealed."

"The State," the report states, meaning Maryland, "is somewhat less sensitive to the business cycle than the nation, since in each of the post-war business cycles Maryland's personal income showed a larger increase.

"In the first of the recessions, 1948-1949, personal income rose in the State while it fell in the nation. In the last three recessions both national and state totals increased, but in each case the State out-distanced the nation."

These are not ballyhoo phrases uttered by over-enthusiastic Maryland boosters. These are the words of sober, tough-minded bankers and economists. To my mind, perhaps the most gratifying aspect of the situation is that during the past few years Maryland has proved that it is possible to make enormous economic strides *within the framework* of a democratic society by placing heavy emphasis upon private investment.

In the light of the progress we have made, the threats by communist leaders that they are going to "bury" us seem somewhat less than convincing. As I have said, most of the credit for our accomplishments goes to our business leaders and to Maryland people as a whole. Our responsibility in government is to try to create the best possible economic climate in which business enterprises may flourish. That has been my aim and my objective as Governor of the State, and I think I can say, without too much immodesty, that we have enjoyed a fair measure of success.

On this note, an economist of national stature said, in a recent interview with a newspaper reporter, that Maryland has shown more sen-