

of public education required the cooperation and joint support of State and local governments under a kind of partnership arrangement.

I said that, in the executive function of appointing members of boards of education, State and local, the Governor is charged with the responsibility of appointing persons with the very highest qualifications—men and women of intelligence, integrity, initiative and with a real and abiding interest in education. A year later, I reaffirm these principles and remain dedicated to their fulfillment.

We have in Maryland, I believe, kept partisan politics out of public education as far as it is practically possible. We should never relent in that purpose. The question of State and local support and participation in education is more complicated and less well-defined, and there remain many problems yet to be solved before we have achieved the perfect partnership to which we aspire. There are areas of disagreement, for example, on the amount and the extent of participation, although there is very nearly common consent that the localities cannot bear the burden alone and that substantial contributions on the part of the State are required if we are to maintain our high standards of public instruction. These areas of disagreement can be wiped out, I am convinced, if those of us who are engaged in finding a solution to the problem will bury every semblance of antagonism and keep our eyes focused on the main objective. This means, among other things, fostering a respect for one another's opinions, motives and judgment. We will get nowhere if we proceed at cross purposes and if we are secretive in our action and suspicious of the aims of the other person.

It is a situation which demands mutual understanding, mutual respect and joint responsibility in a common undertaking. With regard to appointments to boards of education, State and local, I can say in good conscience that every selection I have made has been based purely on the fitness and qualifications of the persons chosen to serve in these important positions. I am convinced—and I think you will agree with me—that the men and women I have appointed are eminently qualified for the positions.

I should like to review with you some of the events which have occurred since we met together in this hall a year ago. I think I should point out, first of all, that for the first time in many years your State House in Annapolis has provided a genial and comfortable atmosphere for representatives of the State Department of Education, of city and county Departments of Education, of school teachers and of others who are interested in public education. This atmosphere of cordiality I