

The improvement of the intellectual and spiritual resources of the people through education, we know, is a main objective. I am confident that we have the wisdom, the patience and the determination to attain that objective.

ADDRESS, CONVOCATION, MARYLAND STATE COLLEGE,
PRINCESS ANNE

December 4, 1959

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to Dr. Williams for inviting me here to speak at this first in a series of leadership convocations. Your president informs me that the purpose of the convocations is to give proper recognition to those students who, as a result of their achievements in scholarship and student activities, have been chosen as officers of your several campus organizations. I am grateful for this opportunity to join with you to pay tribute to these young men and women who have contributed their time, talent and intelligence to the betterment of Maryland State College and consequently to the advancement of the State of Maryland as a whole.

I should like to say something later on the point of leadership, but first let me make a few observations about this educational institution which is so dear to the hearts of you as students, officers and faculty members, and to those of us who have watched this college develop over the years. Personally, I have always had a feeling of deep affection and profound friendship for this College. I have watched its progress, under many names and in varying conditions of prosperity and adversity, since my boyhood days. In the first place, I am a Somerset Countian—born, raised and still a resident—and will return when my present work as Governor is finished. Close ties of friendship always have existed between the people of Somerset County and the Eastern Shore and Maryland State College. May this spirit of kinship thrive. Secondly, a bond of fellowship exists between your College and my church—the church of my family and my forebears.

As you know the Rev. John Franklin Goucher, the illustrious Methodist Minister and educator, was one of the earliest benefactors of this institution. The Methodists took the lead in founding the school, and supported and administered it until it was finally taken over by the State of Maryland in 1936. Though of course it is now completely free of church control and influence, we Methodists nevertheless retain our feeling of kinship for Maryland State College. Finally my attachment