

ADDRESS, DEDICATION OF GYMNASIUM,  
SALISBURY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE  
SALISBURY

January 16, 1962

It is always an inspiration to me to take part in the dedication of a new building to enrich the lives of the citizens of this State, and it is particularly inspiring to witness the formal opening of a structure dedicated to such a worthy cause as this—the education of the young men and women of Maryland.

I see in this handsome new gymnasium of the Salisbury State Teachers College a symbol of the will and determination of the people of Maryland to move forward unyieldingly to better our program of education. The principle of public education is deeply rooted in the history and tradition of our society, but events which have occurred during the past few years have placed new and added emphasis upon the importance of education.

Out of two world wars, the United States of America has emerged as a predominant world power, saddled with the terrible responsibility of defending not only its own integrity as a nation but the integrity of the free world. As the leader of the free nations, and as guardians of democracy, we are confronted by enemies as powerful and competitive as they are ruthless. It has not been encouraging to us to observe the great advances which have been made by Soviet Russia and its communist allies and satellites in the areas of science and technology. Their achievements, particularly in the space race, have caused us some alarm and much deep concern. As a result, our system of education has undergone an exhaustive and penetrating scrutiny, because there is common agreement that if we are to survive the fierce competition of our enemies we must keep pace with them in the training and education of our citizens. There is no doubt in the minds of any of us that the future of our society will be shaped by the character and the quality of our education.

Such a situation quite naturally invites a comparison between the institutions and programs of education in this country and those of Soviet Russia. Now, I have no instruction or experience that would qualify me to speak with authority on this subject, but as a citizen and public official I am keenly interested in learning all I can about it.

Recently, I was very much interested in reading a report on a study recently conducted by the National Science Foundation on education and professional employment in the U.S.S.R. It was hardly a surprise