

defense than the firemen of the state. I am sure that we may expect the full support of all fire companies and all individual fireman in this most important undertaking.

Finally, let me say again that I have thoroughly enjoyed your comradeship here this evening. I hope that all of you will return to your homes after these four days of instruction better prepared to do your jobs as fire fighters.

REMARKS TO THE GOVERNOR'S
FIRE PREVENTION CONFERENCE
ANNAPOLIS

November 6, 1961

I have asked you to come here to this two-day conference to discuss among yourselves the possibilities of reducing fire losses in Maryland through preventive practices. Our concern is with both the millions of dollars in property losses annually and the deaths and injuries that occur as a result of preventable fires, although it may be said that our chief interest is in reducing the distressing toll of deaths and injuries.

Let me say at the outset that I am most grateful to each of you for the sacrifice of time and energy you have made in coming to this conference. The presence of so many of you here this morning is an indication of the widespread interest that exists in Maryland in finding a solution to the problem of fire safety. I believe I speak for every Marylander when I commend you for the splendid public spirit you have shown by gathering here to confront and attack a menace to public safety—fires.

As I look over this conference program, so carefully and intelligently planned, I am deeply impressed by the enormous amount of talent and knowledge that has been brought together for this 1961 conference. One sees an expert, a specialist, an authority on practically every line of the printed program. It is most encouraging evidence that something really significant will be accomplished at this meeting.

I am grateful in particular to our non-Maryland friends who have come here to assist us with our problem—to Mr. Joseph Transue, of the Philco Corporation of Philadelphia, who will address you later at this session; to Mr. Henry G. Thomas, of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, New York; to Mr. Sam Pyle, of the United States Department of Agriculture; to Mr. Kendall Jarvis, of the Soil Conservation Service; to Mr. Clay Easterly, of Martinsville, Virginia, and Mr. Willis