

it is homecoming to us wherever we travel and whatever community we visit on this delightful peninsula. All of us who were born, brought up or who have lived for any great length of time in this section of our State know what a feeling of elation it gives us to contemplate its rich traditions, the glorious role it has played in the history of our State and our nation and the abundant contribution it has made to the civilization we enjoy.

I am particularly gratified to have this opportunity today to come here to salute the citizens of the town of Hurlock and to congratulate them on the accomplishment of a splendid community project. This medical center which we are dedicating here today, brought to fruition by neighbors working hand-in-hand in a joint enterprise, is a monument to the spirit of community responsibility which is so characteristic of the people of the Eastern shore.

It is a mark, too, of the progressive, forward-looking attitude of the people of this town who, proud of their own heritage, have shown a determination to enrich further the heritage of their children and their children's children. As responsible citizens, you were concerned with the health of your community. And so, you erected this building for the care of the sick and the healing of the wounded. I can think of no better measure, no fairer yardstick, of a community's enlightenment than the efforts it expends for the health of its citizens

This medical center was conceived, planned and executed by the people of Hurlock. It is the people's project and the people are proud of it. Your mayor and your town council saw a great need for a facility such as this for the protection of the health of the community. As devoted and energetic public officials, they took the initiative and proposed that a medical center be built, financed by funds of the community. The people of Hurlock accepted the challenge, rallied to the cause and voted in a referendum to finance the project

The Center's growth, expansion and improvement as time goes on is a foregone conclusion. I predict that it will become the very center of the community life of this town. I know it is, and will continue to be, one of the finest of your community assets. You are proud of your handiwork, and, as your Governor and your friend, I am proud of you for having achieved it.

Benjamin Disraeli, the illustrious British Prime Minister who directed the great empire for Queen Victoria, had this to say of public health: "The health of the people," he said, "is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend."