

Fort McHenry had saved our new Republic. And Maryland men had written a glorious chapter in the history of our nation. We are gathered here this evening to commemorate that noble victory and to pay homage to the men who fought so courageously to preserve their newly-won freedom and independence. As we do so, it is befitting that we give serious consideration to the condition of our country today. We all know that she is threatened by forces mightier and more ruthless than were faced by the heroes of Maryland in 1814. Let us resolve here that we will stand up to this challenge with the same fortitude that was displayed by those brave men who fought at North Point and Fort McHenry.

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ADDRESS, INSTALLATION OF MASON-DIXON  
LINE MARKER

TAYLOR'S ISLAND

October 24, 1959

Our beloved Maryland, with an area of 10,577 square miles, is one of the smaller states of the union. In fact, only eight of the 50 states, including the newest one, Hawaii, are smaller in area. This statistic, to be sure, is of concern to none of us in Maryland. We are wise enough to value quality over quantity and know that a coin is estimated not by its bulk, but by its intrinsic worth.

When we review the colonial history of Maryland and its boundary disputes with neighbors to the north, east and south. The wonder is that it remained as large as it is. For nearly two and a half centuries, these neighbors of ours whittled away at our terrain with astonishing success, leaving us only a part of the land which Charles I granted to George Calvert and his heirs in the Charter of 1632.

In a long and bitter controversy with the Penns, Maryland lost all of what is now the State of Delaware and an area in Pennsylvania 20 miles in depth from the present boundary, including a great part of the ground on which the city of Philadelphia now stands. It narrowly escaped division into two parts, the fate of the modern Pakistan, for when Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon finally extended their "west line" into the Alleghenies to a point at the northernmost bend of the Potomac River, they found that they were only two miles from that river which Charles I had designated as the southern boundary of the province. As a result of this survey, we know that today one travels through