

been created by the swift urbanization of our State. It is your number one problem, and its solution will require the mustering of all your resources, energy and intelligence. It will require the co-operation of all government agencies—of the counties and cities with one another and of the State with all of its political subdivisions . . . .

The difficulty Baltimore has with its slums should be a matter of concern to every Maryland citizen, regardless of his residence. And the magnificent program Baltimore has offered to overcome this difficulty—the elaborate and visionary Charles Center and a multitude of urban renewal and public housing projects—should be a source of pride to every Marylander. I am pleased to observe that our State government has worked closely with the City of Baltimore in its rehabilitation efforts.

Our new State Office Building Center, with handsome modern buildings surrounded by attractive landscaping, stands on a site that only a few years ago was a jumbled mass of crumbling buildings—among the worst of Baltimore's slums and only a short distance from the heart of the city. The Office Building Center which the State built is the hub of the Mount Royal Plaza area, an urban renewal project that will wipe out a whole area of slums.

The University of Maryland must expand its operations in Baltimore, and in doing so it, too is giving the city of Baltimore a hand in its effort to rejuvenate its run-down central business district. . . .

We cannot tolerate slums in Maryland, whether they be of the urban or the suburban variety. We must build vigorous, healthy, attractive cities and towns and keep them as such. I hope that in my tenure of office as Governor I shall be able to work with you toward that objective . . . .

But before I sit down, I have an announcement to make which I am sure will be of interest to all of you. Ed Mester, who has served this League so ably as Executive Secretary, has consented to join my executive staff. I am pleased to announce his appointment as Executive Assistant to the Governor. You will be reluctant to lose him, I know, but I trust you will take into consideration that a loss to the Municipal League is a gain to your State.