

of the responsibility for the orderly and healthy growth of the community falls upon local governments. Within the Maryland portion of the Washington suburban area are two counties, forty municipalities and special districts with one function or another too numerous to recite.

The solution some would offer is consolidation, centralization; but in my opinion such a solution is an over-simplification of the problem. Aside from the purely practical obstacles, it is questionable if better government would be achieved by the establishment of one huge metropolitan governmental authority. I trust that my emphasis upon local responsibility will not lead you to conclude that I feel that your State government and your federal government have no obligations at all in the matter. On the contrary, I believe very strongly that a problem so widespread in its effects can be solved only by the combined efforts of all—through local, state and federal cooperation.

I am gratified that many Maryland communities have seen fit to take advantage of housing, urban-renewal and other federal programs designed to improve the living conditions of the citizens of this country. And as your Governor, I have sought to encourage a strong and active State participation in plans to improve conditions in the localities.

In the final analysis, I think it is a situation that calls for the cooperation of all governmental agencies—between the federal and the state governments, between the states, between the state and its counties and cities, and between the counties and cities with one another. Prince Georges County is fortunate in that it has established a long tradition of cooperation with its neighbors. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission was founded in 1918, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1927 The two agencies have served you well in the past and will continue to serve you well in the future.

The passing of time has unfolded new and intensified problems, and with them arises the demand for an extension of intergovernmental cooperation. The Washington area has arrived at the realization that such matters as mass transportation and water pollution cannot be handled in a piecemeal manner by one community acting independently of others. And so, the cooperation has been expanded into the Virginia area, with the inauguration of interstate compacts and the establishment of such agencies as the Washington Metropol-