

REMARKS, 11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTS – WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 25, 1962

I am grateful for this opportunity to represent the State of Maryland at this Eleventh Annual Conference of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. I am sure that Governor Harrison will agree with me that the states of Virginia and Maryland are keenly conscious of the fact that this great city which is the seat of our national government is very much a part of our domain.

As Governor of Maryland, I am aware that well over a half million citizens of my State are oriented economically, socially and culturally to the city of Washington. The problems of the District of Columbia, therefore, are in the strictest sense the problems of Maryland—and the problems of Virginia—and we are eager to continue and strengthen the cooperative effort of the various governments represented in this Council to solve our common problems. The State of Maryland from the very beginning has enjoyed a close affinity with, and affection for, the seat of our federal government. Our State House in Annapolis was for a time (1783-1784) the Capitol of the United States in that period when the executive and legislative functions of the Federation were exercised by the Continental Congress. In 1783, the General Assembly of Maryland made a move to induce the government of the United States to move permanently to Annapolis. It promised to donate to the Continental Congress as an outright gift the State House which had only recently been completed and which still serves as our State capitol. And it offered to give also the mansion of the Governor of Maryland as an official residence of the President of the Congress and to provide thirteen other buildings for the use of the delegates of the thirteen states. The federal government declined the offer we made, but as you know a few years later Maryland ceded a parcel of land to the government for use as a federal district. All of the land that now comprises the District of Columbia was a part of the territory granted by King Charles I to George Calvert, the First Lord Baltimore, and called Maryland.

We Marylanders, therefore, feel that we are something more than just neighbors of Washington. And the fact that the population of the federal district has overflowed its boundaries and spilled into the surrounding Maryland counties has brought us even closer to-