

ingly large percentage of our population is composed of industrial laboring men and women. This is a trend which this Administration welcomes. It is a trend which this Administration is doing everything in its power to aid and assist.

As one step in this direction, a bill was introduced in the last session of the Legislature to establish an Economic Development Commission. The purpose of this Commission is to attract new industry to the State of Maryland and to assist established industries to expand. The entrance of new industries into the State will, of course, result in increased job opportunities for Maryland workers. In order to achieve maximum benefits, I have advised this Commission to be selective in the type of industry which it seeks to attract. We in Maryland do not want an influx of low-wage, unprogressive industries into our State. The Economic Development Commission is therefore carefully screening the requests it receives in order to concentrate on attracting those industries which want to hire skilled and competent workers.

From this point of view of public policy, Maryland wants new industries that will be able to make substantial contributions toward raising the standard of living in the State. We do not want industries which will take more out of our economy than they put in, or those which will tend to depress our living standards. I am proud to say that Maryland today ranks tenth in the nation in per capita income, and I firmly believe that with continuing emphasis by the State on attracting high-wage industries, we will continue to improve our position in this scale.

I also believe that the good showing that Maryland is making in terms of its wage level has been brought about chiefly because of our excellent record in the field of labor-management relations. It has been a long time since a major labor-management controversy originating in this State has reached an acute stage. Labor and management get along well in Maryland, because they respect each other, and work together as equals. For this, Maryland labor should receive great credit, because it is guided by responsible and practical men who are interested primarily in improving the security, working conditions, and standard of living of their union members, and who—in their dealings with management—work conscientiously towards these goals.

As a thoughtful American, deeply aware of the importance of the role of organized labor in all aspects of the life of our nation, I