

Maryland has the program been of more value to the community, nor has the community in all that time ever been more aware of this service. I refer, of course, to the late and unlamented recession of 1958, in which many businesses suffered serious setbacks and many thousands of Marylanders found themselves out of work. In the calendar year of 1958, the Maryland Department of Employment Security paid approximately \$72.5 million in unemployment insurance benefits of all kinds to unemployed workers. More than \$60 million of this amount represented benefits payable under the Maryland Unemployment Insurance Law, the remainder being payments under special federal programs for unemployed veterans and federal workers and under the special federal program under which benefits were extended temporarily during the emergency period. This money I am talking about went to more than 135,000 individual workers, or, that is to say, about one of every eight workers in Maryland's civilian labor force. Some idea of the workload involved can be gained from the fact that more than 2,400,000 check payments were made.

It may be said without exaggeration that the Employment Security program is in the largest measure responsible for the strong recovery we have made from the recession of 1958. In addition to this pump-priming function, unemployment insurance benefits played an even more important role in making possible the purchase of food, clothing, housing and other non-deferrable items during the period of temporary unemployment. It is of great consequence to the health of our social and economic system that such a vast sum of money, put aside during a period of relative prosperity, should have been available in time of dire needs. A serious depression was averted, and a great part of the credit is traceable to the fact that the community had money in reserve in the form of unemployment insurance funds. It is not possible to say definitely that we have, through unemployment insurance and other measures, defeated the "boom-bust" business cycle that has plagued our nation since the Industrial Revolution. But we may say, at least, that by leveling off the sharp curves of economic expansion and economic depression, we have restored the confidence of the people of the world in the capacity of the capitalistic system to survive. Such confidence, we must confess, was waning before these programs were inaugurated a quarter of a century ago.

I have spoken at length of the payment of unemployment benefits, with no intention however, of ignoring another valuable function of our Department of Employment Security. Now that we have re-