

REMARKS, MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES CONFERENCE
OF CORRECTION – BALTIMORE

April 20, 1960

It is a pleasure to welcome to Maryland you delegates of the middle Atlantic States Conference of Correction and to extend to you the warm hospitality of our State.

I understand that this is the first time your organization has met here in this City, and quite naturally the members of our Department of Parole and Probation and the officials of our various correctional and juvenile institutions are proud to be your hosts. We hope that during your stay here you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to visit as many of our institutions as possible and to examine the work we are doing in the field of parole. I am sure that Wallace Reidt and our other State officials will cooperate fully with you in this.

We think that we here in Maryland have made substantial progress during the past several years in the development of many benefits of parole. As Governor of the State, I realize how vastly important it is to maintain a smoothly operating and effective system of parole and supervision.

In 1953, our General Assembly set up the Department of Parole and Probation, giving it full autonomy in the exercise of the parole authority, with the exception of life-sentence cases in which the Governor must concur. Prior to that time, the Governor of the State had to examine and sign every parole. This represented a great step forward in penology, removing parole entirely from politics and placing it in the hands of the experts where it rightfully belongs. Since the establishment of the Department, the ratio of paroles to prisoners has increased gradually.

We believe here, as I am sure you do in your states, that it is better, both from a rehabilitative and economic point of view, to release prisoners, who qualify themselves for freedom, under supervision of parole officers than it is to keep them confined in correctional institutions. We calculate here in Maryland that it costs approximately \$800 a year to keep a prisoner, whereas it costs only about \$100 a year to supervise him under parole. Right now, we have around 4,400 under supervision in the State.

Let me say again that we are delighted to have you as our guests. We hope that your stay in Maryland will be enjoyable to make you want to come back soon.