

with the heaviest of responsibilities for the proper functioning of the courts and the proper administration of justice.

I know that you will continue to discharge these responsibilities with credit to yourselves and with honor to the high office you hold.

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REMARKS, MARYLAND YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION DAY  
FORT McHENRY

May 11, 1962

It is a pleasure to be here with you this evening and participate in the ceremonies for Maryland Youth Crime Investigating Committee and others for their kind invitation to appear before you on this occasion. It is gratifying for me, both officially and personally, to note the splendid cooperation of our Federal, State and local agencies in this effort and, as Governor, I want to thank each and every person who participated in this affair.

All of us here today know that crime among our youth is steadily increasing in Maryland, as it is in other parts of the country, and that our police organizations in the State are doing everything humanly possible to cope with the problem. Before we can determine the causes and discover the ultimate cure to the problem of ever-increasing juvenile crime, however, we must have the cooperation of our private citizens. For it is the parents and the friends, the clergy and the teachers who can provide our wayward youngsters with the love, the inspiration and the good example so desperately needed by them. We must enlist their aid in the war against juvenile crime by somehow focusing their attention on the seriousness and the gravity of the situation.

Once we have persuaded our citizens to act upon their responsibilities and once they have willingly sanctioned our laws and our methods for handling youthful offenders, we will have gone a long way towards reducing the crime rate among our youngsters. As I see it, that is the purpose of our tremendous demonstration here this evening—to call attention to the urgency of our juvenile problem and thereby seek the aid of our fellow Marylanders in this endeavor.

As Governor of Maryland, I want to thank everyone here tonight, on behalf of the citizens of this State, for their interest and initiative on the part of our youngsters.