
PLANNING

Recognition of the necessity for orderly planning and programming is highlighted by the selections presented. The rapid urbanization, the complexity of intergovernmental relationships, the conflicting functional jurisdictions and the clash of vested economic interests make leadership in this field a challenging problem in state government. Maryland during the early 1960's created a State Planning Department and made adjustments in state legislation to promote more satisfactory planning.

ADDRESS, THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ANNAPOLIS

I have heard of the splendid work your organization is doing for the betterment of local governments, and so I was pleased that in the budget I presented to the General Assembly yesterday I was able to include a small appropriation to assist you in staffing your central office.

I would like to speak to you briefly today on a subject I consider of paramount importance to every citizen of Maryland. Of all the changes that have occurred in this country during the past few years, none is so dramatic and so spectacular as the rapid urbanization that has taken place. Urbanization has swept over Maryland so rapidly since World War II that the changes become visible almost from day to day. The spectacular rise in population has been accompanied by a mass movement of people to our cities. The result is that our largest urban center—the Baltimore metropolitan area—has spread out over the three counties surrounding the city and is stretching farther every day. Washington, our national capital, has spilled over its boundaries into Virginia and Maryland, with the result that two more of our 23 counties are almost completely urbanized. Mass-built developments sprawl into the suburbs of our large cities, and a rapid and sometimes catastrophic change appears in the character of our central cities. Slums expand, and with it comes a deterioration of central business districts and a general decrease in the value of properties. The large cities are first to suffer the impact of this change. Baltimore is our best example here in Maryland, and Baltimore is aware of the problem it faces.