
PRESS RELATIONS

Governor Tawes frequently expressed his opinion that a free press was the best assurance of a democratic society. From the beginning, he pledged his cooperation with representatives of the press, radio, and television in helping to keep Maryland's citizens informed about the activities of their State government. He was the first Governor of Maryland to make use of the formal press conference, meeting bi-weekly with reporters. At the same time, he continued the practice of meeting informally with newsmen in unscheduled interviews and conferences. A weekly newsletter was issued by the Governor's Office designed to keep the editors of the State's many weekly newspapers informed of activities in the executive department. In addition, the Governor made frequent radio and television appearances an integral part of his public information responsibilities.

ADDRESS, MARYLAND PRESS ASSOCIATION

BALTIMORE

February 13, 1959

I have become accustomed during these past few weeks to the sight of newspaper men. For they tell me, in words with which you are familiar, that I am now "news."

Let me say in the beginning that it has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience. I have discovered that quite often I learn more from reporters than they are able to learn from me.

I should like to acknowledge at the outset, too, the patience and forbearance displayed by the members of the press corps in Annapolis, with whom I am in close association daily. In the commotion and agitation that followed my inauguration and the opening of the General Assembly, they were compelled at times, I learn, to wait in line to see me. It is a difficulty I tried to work out to their satisfaction, and I am most grateful to them for the tolerance they showed under conditions that were not too pleasant for any of us.

We are all aware of the force of words, printed or spoken, when they are disseminated among the people in mass. And so, we have the expression: "The power of the press."