

ADDRESS, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON RECREATION
AND PARKS

ANNAPOLIS

April 21, 1961

It is a delight to me to be here today for this tenth annual Governor's Conference on Recreation and Parks.

It is appropriate, I think, that this meeting is being held in Annapolis, for it was ten years ago that the first of these annual conferences was held in this historic capital of the State of Maryland. Looking over the past decade, we see an ever-increasing emphasis on the value of providing adequate parks and recreational facilities for the citizens of our State. This is highly encouraging, because it means that Marylanders are putting into practice the precept so ably expressed by a Roman poet—that a wise man should ask of heaven no more than a healthy soul in a healthy body.

Longer vacation, longer week-ends, more leisure in general, is the order of the day. It is the obligation of the State, as I see it, to provide the facilities by which our citizens may use this leisure wisely. William Lyon Phelps, the eminent American educator and author, wrote these lines:

"Those who decide to use leisure as a means of mental development . . . are the happiest people in the world; and they are not only happy in themselves, they are the cause of happiness in others."

I am interested in outdoor recreation for a number of reasons, but primarily because of its effect upon our society. We must encourage sound minds in sound bodies if we expect to maintain a healthy society

During the ten years in which these conferences have been held, emphasis has been placed on the necessity of providing both indoor and outdoor recreation. This increase in key recreational activities has been particularly noted in county and local community activities. To assist these local communities in this vitally important work, we have for the first time, created the position of recreation supervisor in our Department of Forests and Parks.

In the area of forests and parks, this Administration has given high priority to the acquisition of land for recreational use to provide for the rapidly growing population of the State. We have an active committee now at work on a master plan for recreation areas and State