

ADDRESS, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON RECREATION
AND PARKS
BALTIMORE

April 14, 1962

It is a distinct pleasure for me to be here today at this eleventh annual Governor's Conference on Recreation and Parks. As you know, I have always been an enthusiastic supporter of the State's park and recreational programs.

Leisure-time activities have grown by leaps and bounds, both here in Maryland and throughout the nation, in the 11 short years that have passed since the very first of these conferences was held in historic Annapolis. During the past decade we have experienced a tremendous resurgence of interest in our recreational facilities; a resurgence born of shorter hours, longer vocation, long weekends and a greater willingness generally to spend money on pleasure-oriented activities. To our way of thinking, these are healthy indications. They prove that our Maryland citizens are putting into practice the wisdom handed down by the ancients—that is, a sound body is the temple of a sound mind. We have a serious obligation to promote and further encourage this philosophy. For without it we cannot have a truly healthy society.

There is another reason for fostering outdoor recreation here in Maryland. That reason is its importance, both socially and economically. We are all aware that tourism today is one of our major assets. Each year, more and more tourists visit Maryland, spending their money with us. Thus they help our local economy and increase the income of our people. We believe, therefore, that it is our duty to do all in our power to exploit this economic potential, especially through our parks and recreational areas.

Both tourism and the increased awareness of our citizens about the State's facilities are extremely encouraging. But they have caused an ever-increasing emphasis to be placed on the value and wisdom of providing adequate parks and outdoor areas. During the past eleven years we have done our utmost to provide adequate recreational facilities. We have tried, and I think successfully so, to improve present facilities and acquire newer ones. We have given whatever practical assistance we could to all phases of our park and recreational programs. Noting an increase in major recreational activities in the counties and local communities, I created the position of recreation spe-