RELIGION

The relationship of church and state, a fundamental issue in American political philosophy, was of great concern to Governor Tawes. In numerous addresses to groups of many denominations, he repeated his view that religion and government are basic institutions of our society. It was his contention that, although a barrier separated their functions, church and state each render the people an indispensable service, the one in law and order and the other in moral and spiritual values. He saw American society and the American way of life as distinct products of the Judeo-Christian concept of man's relationship to God. Religion, the Governor noted on one occasion, is the one predominant ingredient in our American culture.

Governor Tawes took pride in reminding his listeners of Maryland's heritage as the fountainhead of religious toleration in the New World. The search for religious sanctuary prompted many of the early settlers to locate in Maryland, he observed, adding that in the Free State, religion has been a basic part of history.

REMARKS, ANNE ARUNDEL MINISTERIUM TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

ANNAPOLIS

February 18, 1959

When I received your kind invitation to come here today, the suggestion was made that I say a few words about the role of the clergy in politics and government. What, I was asked, can ministers do to help in the achievement of better government?

To this question I would offer a simple answer that the best service you can render your country is to continue inspiring its people with spiritual ideals. In the end, who can conceive of a greater contribution to society?

But the inquiry opens up broader areas of speculation, and I should like to give you some thoughts I have on the subject. What, for example, is the ideal relationship between religion and government—between the church and the state?