

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, COMPTROLLER'S
OFFICE CAROL CONCERT

ANNAPOLIS

December 22, 1959

This occasion for many years has been for me a high point in the Christmas season. It is always a joy and a delight to meet here with friends and fellow employees to sing the old carols of Christmas.

The first Christmas carol, we know, was sung by the heavenly hosts proclaiming the birth of our Lord. "Glory be to God in the highest," they sang. "And on earth, peace, good will toward men."

The Christmas story—the story of the birth of Jesus—is a story of men and angels rejoicing. And so, the Christmas season today, when we commemorate this the greatest of our Christian miracles, is a time for merriment and rejoicing—for peace, charity and good fellowship.

Joy and peace are the themes of the first Christmas story, told to us in simplicity in the Gospels. The angel who bore the heavenly message told the shepherds to have no fear, that he brought to them and to all mankind "good tidings of great joy." The message was that the infant Jesus, who lay with his holy mother in the Bethlehem stable, had brought peace on earth, good will toward men. And so, we must forever commemorate this occurrence with gladness in our hearts, with peace in our souls, with a feeling of love and kindness for our fellowmen everywhere.

Christmas is no time to be gloomy, cold-hearted or cynical. It is a time for mirth and merrymaking. Shakespeare called it a "hallowed" and "gracious" time, and Washington Irving described it as a season "for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart." And so, on this Christmas of the year 1959, while we exchange gifts and good wishes among members of our families and our friends and entertain hopes of a better future for ourselves and everyone else, let us resolve to do all within our power to bring about peace on earth and good will among men. Let us pray that the spirit of Christmas—of peace on earth, joy and brotherhood—will abide with us, so that the significance of Christ's birth will not be lost to man and that peace may prevail in this troubled world.

To you here, and to people everywhere, I extend my best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday. A merry Christmas to you and to those near and dear to you.