

In recent years, the Maryland Training School for Boys has been able to reduce the average length of stay for boys. This means that you boys may look forward to an early return to your communities, if you earn such privilege, under the school's citizenship program, but it means also that the school can provide service to a larger number of boys. I am told, for example, that 701 boys have been admitted for the first ten months of the fiscal year. I would like to take this opportunity to commend you boys, as well as the administration of the school, for the splendid way in which you have maintained the appearance of the buildings and of the total campus.

This is a training school in which the State of Maryland takes great pride, and I know that it is not without some considerable hard work on the part both of the boys and the staff that an institution of this size is kept in such excellent physical condition. As your Governor, with a deep pride in all that our great State does well, I commend you most heartily for your successful efforts. I believe that all of you boys understand that your hard work has a purpose, and that hard work is good for men and boys alike.

I am told that during the summer months more than 100 of you will be returning to your communities. It is needless for me to tell you that it is never too easy to make this transition without a great deal of preparation and without the fullest cooperation of the families, the courts and other agencies, and the individual boy himself. And yet, this is the test of the Maryland Training School of Boys and its program. Each one of you will be given the opportunity to demonstrate to the school, to the community—and most of all to yourself—that you have earned the right to take your place in the State as a junior citizen.

I know that a great majority of the boys who have been released from the Maryland Training School for Boys have passed the test successfully. It is my sincere hope that every boy in this audience today will remember this fact. I earnestly hope, also, that you will face the future with the determination to be even more successful than the thousands of boys who, over the past 40 years, have left this campus and have enriched their community, your State and your nation as successful citizens in the business world, in industry and in the military and professional fields. Once again, my sincere thanks for inviting me here. I wish all of you good health, prosperity and happiness in the future.