

ADDRESS,  
DEDICATION J. MILLARD TAWES BUILDING,  
EASTERN SHORE STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE

June 15, 1961

I am deeply appreciative of the high honor I am receiving here today and will cherish the memory of this occasion for the remainder of my life. In inviting me here to take part in these exercises, Dr. Tuerk was kind enough to say in his letter—and I use his words—that “the interest and leadership you are giving to Maryland’s mental hygiene program is epitomized in the bricks and mortar of this new facility.”

I sincerely hope that by deed I may be able to prove myself worthy of this perhaps over-generous expression of confidence and of the high honor you have bestowed upon me.

It is somewhat puzzling that we who are reared under the precept of honoring our fathers and mothers should have to look upon the aged as a problem. And yet, we must face the fact that aging has become a social problem the solution of which calls for public programs. It is difficult enough, as we all know, for an elderly person living in a family group surrounded by love and understanding. It is infinitely more difficult for the elderly individual who has no family ties, who is enfeebled physically or mentally and who has become confused and has withdrawn from life experiences that overwhelm him when he is least capable of helping himself. He breaks down from the strain, often artificially imposed upon him, as an individual who has outlived his usefulness. Lacking other resources, he comes to our doors, discouraged, distressed and often in dire need of psychological or psychiatric treatment.

When I was campaigning for the office I now hold, I pledged to the people of Maryland that, if elected, I would invoke measures to alleviate the suffering and enrich the lives of the elderly people of our State. I have conscientiously tried to fulfill that pledge. We have undertaken measures, for example, the subsidization of the construction of public and nonprofit-private nursing homes authorized by the Legislature this year.

I see in the erection of this geriatrics building of the Eastern Shore Hospital another significant step toward our goal of making the lives