

arise on the very ground we are now standing on, was conceived, planned and will be completed during my term as Governor. This is a much-needed facility, and will give the Department the opportunity to intensify its activities among our youthful offenders; thereby broadening and increasing the knowledge of departmental personnel in this vital area. Thus this facility will better enable the Department of Correction to fulfill its objectives.

The present Administration has long been cognizant of the problems arising in the correctional field and has devoted considerable time and effort to a thorough study of these problems during the past several years. I am happy, therefore, to see final steps being taken towards the solution of one of our more pressing problems. As I said, we have long realized the urgency for renewed and up-to-date methods in the rehabilitation of our young violators. We purposely waited, however, until we were absolutely certain that we had found the best possible solution to this involved problem; then we acted quickly and decisively.

This institution will be a completely modern treatment facility and will house a classification section which is an innovation in Maryland's prison system. It will accommodate 1000 prisoners and is expandable to a capacity of 1200. The purpose of this installation is the application of contemporary approved correctional techniques to the study of prisoners in the 16 to 25 age group and the evaluation of their potentialities prior to assignment to appropriate rehabilitative treatment programs. The classification section will receive prisoners in this age group as they are sentenced by the courts. There they will spend between 2 to 8 weeks under the scrutiny of psychiatrists, psychologists and penal experts before reassignment to one of Maryland's five major facilities for youthful male offenders. The institutional program of the classification section features individualized treatment and intensive classification methods. It places particular emphasis on rehabilitation through academic and vocational training; diversified employment, and through counseling, guidance and religious activities. Other techniques include group and individual psychotherapy preparation for parole and recreation.

So you can see, no stone has been left unturned in attempting to discover the potentialities of these prisoners, to properly classify them and then to rehabilitate them so that they may be returned as useful citizens to our society. This plan may have been a while in reaching its fruition. The thought and study made necessary by such an ambitious program, however, cannot help but result in sound and worthwhile