

ADDRESSES, MESSAGES, AND STATEMENTS
OF GENERAL INTEREST

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture, if no longer dominant, is still a vital force in the Maryland economy. With some 25,000 farms covering approximately 50 per cent of the State's land area, the problems of the Maryland farmer command the attention of the State's leaders. His own background in a small, farming community made Governor Tawes especially aware of the needs of rural residents. A major undertaking of his first term was a study of Maryland agriculture followed by the creation of the Agricultural Advisory Board to give representation to the State's farmers in agricultural policy-making. Emphasis also was placed on increased agricultural research and on direct assistance to farmers in dealing with pest control, drainage, irrigation and related problems.

GREETINGS, MARYLAND FARM BUREAU BANQUET

BALTIMORE

January 13, 1961

I want to thank the Maryland Farm Bureau for asking me to be with you this evening, it is a pleasure for me to extend to you best wishes from Government House.

Maryland, which is a State of variety as far as topography is concerned, is no less diverse in its agriculture. Here, we are fortunate to have home-grown products of many types available in our consumer markets. Maryland also is fortunate in having an energetic farming community, men and women anxiously seeking means to improve what they produce.

It is gratifying to me to observe the work of the Maryland Farm Bureau and its affiliated organizations. A perusal of past reports shows that your conventions are *working* conventions. The talks and papers delivered at your meetings are reassuring evidence that Maryland agriculture realizes the magnitude of the job it faces in these challenging years of growth. And more important than just realizing