

dairy products, corn, wheat, oats, barley, soybeans, hay—an almost endless variety of agricultural products. . . .

All of us are aware of the revolution that has taken place in farming and farming methods during the past several years. Only a few years ago, it was possible for a person with sufficient determination but without much capital, much equipment and much scientific training to wrest from the soil a good living for himself and his family. That, as we know, is not true today.

Scientific and technological advancements of the past few years have made agriculture increasingly more competitive, so that it is essential that every farmer increase his yield per acre to meet this fierce competition. A farmer nowadays is not only a cultivator of the soil. He must be a businessman. He must have the scientific and technological know-how to grow crops and produce livestock. Otherwise, he will not survive in a competitive world.

In agriculture, as in industry and commerce, it is a function of government in this highly complex society which we have built to create a social and economic climate that will permit people to prosper in their undertakings. This is true of all levels of government—federal, state and local.

Understandably, farmers, being individualists, have resented some of government's activities as meddling. All of us often have the same feeling. But most assuredly, the farmers of today would not advocate the elimination of programs of agricultural assistance and advice that are offered by federal, state and local governments.

In you State government, we have tried to help the farmer—not to interfere with his farming. Our role, as I have suggested, is to create the kind of circumstances under which he can be most successful in his endeavors. We are doing this in research, in the application of the findings of research through our Extension Service and in the various service and control programs in behalf of agriculture.

Most of you know that within recent weeks I appointed a new State agency—the Agricultural Advisory Board authorized by the General Assembly at its session this year. By law, this 11-member Board must be comprised of eight persons who are bona fide farmers—that is to say farmers who actually till the soil; two members representing businesses or services directly related to agriculture, and the eleventh member who is an ex officio representative of the State Board of Agriculture. The statute under which the Board was created states that it was the intent of the General Assembly to “provide for Mary-