

REMARKS, MARYLAND FARM BUREAU BANQUET

BALTIMORE

January 19, 1962

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to attend another annual banquet of the Maryland Farm Bureau and to extend to you who are here this evening the official greeting of the State of Maryland.

From the earliest colonial days to the present, agriculture has been a keystone in the economy of Maryland, and the cultivation of the soil a basic part of Maryland life. . . .

The Maryland Farm Bureau and its affiliated organizations have played an outstanding role in the development and improvement of farming in our State. It has been my pleasure to have worked very closely with the officers and members of the Bureau to develop to the highest potential the agricultural resources of the State.

Your State government considers it to be its function in the enterprise to give you the kind of assistance that you as individuals cannot provide for yourselves and in general to create the kind of social and economic climate in which you can prosper in your pursuits. 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 that are being carried on for the benefit of agriculture.

Some of you will recall that a year ago I mentioned that I had appointed a committee to make a study of the agricultural set-up in our State. Before it, among other things, was the question of the creation of a State Department of Agriculture. As you know, the committee advised against the creation of such a department and recommended instead that an advisory board be appointed to advise the State Board of Agriculture on agricultural matters. As most of you know, this Board has been appointed and is functioning. . . .

Steps have been taken, also, to improve the condition of migratory labor, to conserve and develop our water resources, to attack the problem of beach and shore erosion, to expand our agriculture education program and to improve the programs of research, marketing studies and reports carried on by the University of Maryland. In other words, your State government is active and vigilant in promoting the interests and the welfare of the Maryland farmer, believing that a flourishing agricultural community is the strongest bulwark of a free society. . . .