

REMARKS ON NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

February 16, 1962

In an age where increasing understanding and cooperation is so vital to our very well being, it is an honor to commend an organization so close to home for their efforts in bringing peoples of the world together. I am speaking of the 4-H youth organization which currently is celebrating National 4-H Club Week, March 3-10.

Fifteen thousand strong in Maryland and two and one third million in number throughout the nation, these young boys and girls represent the heads, hearts, hands and health of the world to the "glory of God and for the brotherhood of man."

For example, as participants this year in the International Farm Youth Exchange program, approximately 125 American 4-H youths will strengthen understanding and bonds of good will among the peoples of 46 countries, while 4-H families in the United States will host the foreign exchangees. These junior ambassadors engaged in the People-to-People program attempt to change misconceptions about the life and people of the United States through conversation, informal talks before groups similar to 4-H and by their own examples. When they return to this country after their six-month stay, they will share their experiences with youth groups, industrial conferences and community meetings and through radio, television and the press.

This year, I would especially like to extend my best wishes to Miss Elsie Dodds of Rising Sun who will represent Maryland as an I.F.Y.E. delegate in Sweden, beginning in April.

One need not stray to the world scene, however, to see evidences of 4-H handiwork. And one need not look only to rural areas to find 4-H club work contributing to home, family and community life as well as to individual growth. As our cities grow and expand, the needs and interests of our former rural and now suburban areas must be met. The State 4-H Club program, which is conducted by the University of Maryland and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with your county government, is constantly altering and improving its program in order to best serve the public.

Dedicated to making better citizens today of tomorrow's leaders, emphasis is placed on leadership, public speaking, self-reliance and community participation through mental, spiritual and physical development. Helping to provide incentive and recognition to the 4-H boys and girls are a multitude of private enterprises in the State and