
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Historically, the Conference on the Appalachian Region called by the Governor for May 20, 1960, may rank in significance as an American institutional landmark with the Annapolis Convention of 1786, which was a basic step in the movement for the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The organization of the Conference of nine Appalachian governors marked the launching of a vehicle which finally produced in 1965 the Appalachian Regional Commission, which President Lyndon B. Johnson has called a unique experiment in "creative federalism."

The Governor's sponsoring of a regional economic study in 1959, which became a basic reference document, and his emphasis on the essentiality of a regional developmental approach have earned him a special position as a pioneer in this new recognition of the central role of states in state-federal-local cooperation. He emphasized, early in his presentations, the importance of an Appalachian regional highway system, the strong role of planning in regional development and the concept of the sub-regional growth center as a focus for sound development.

Although Maryland has only three counties in the Appalachian geographic configuration, the contributions of ideas and leadership have made a lasting imprint on this pragmatic approach to a solution of an underdeveloped region.

ADDRESS, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON THE APPALACHIAN REGION

ANNAPOLIS

May 20, 1960

First of all, I want to welcome you to Maryland I know many of you had to take time from busy schedules to be here today. That fact is, I believe ample testimony to the importance of the matters we are here to discuss. As I am sure you are aware, we have a great deal of ground to cover in a very short time. For this reason, I shall be brief, as I know we all want to allow as much time as possible for exchange