

work, but it seemed to me that they would be able to function more effectively if the states that comprise the entire Appalachian Region could get together and give a visible and forceful demonstration of their united concern. Such a demonstration would underline their determination to work together in order to bring the Appalachian economy into line with the prosperity that exists throughout most of our nation. It seems to me that all of the states represented here today, working together, can serve as a vital force in seeing that the potentials of the region are no longer overlooked and in speeding up the timetable of economic development.

To my mind, it is shameful and intolerable that, in 1960, there should be children in the United States who are suffering from malnutrition, and entire families who are living on government subsistence handouts which are below normal nutritional needs. It is intolerable that we should have American communities where the family incomes are so low that children can't go to school because of lack of clothes and shoes. The real tragedy of this area, indeed a tragedy for the nation, is the appalling waste of the area's greatest resource—its people. We, in Maryland, are convinced that we cannot long endure such waste. On the contrary, the time is long overdue that we strive to provide economic opportunity to all our citizens. The inexorable pressures of the twentieth century permit no less. How much better that we join together to make this area a contributor to to the national wealth rather than a recipient of inadequate and demoralizing public assistance. How much better that this area be the home, the workshop, and the play yard for a potentially highly skilled and talented people who need only the opportunity to produce.

I view the Appalachian Region, with its ten million people and 130,000 square miles, as one of America's last great frontiers. I am convinced that the people in this room welcome the challenge and hold within them the keys to solutions. I look forward to joining with you in a great effort. I do not feel I need to go into detail about the specific factors which make up the complicated economic and social mosaic of the Appalachian Region. I am sure all of you are more familiar with them than I. They will be summarized very briefly for you in a few minutes by consultants to our Maryland Department of Economic Development.

One thought, which I would like to express, is that too often in the past, particularly at the governmental level, we have tried to solve the problems of the Appalachian Region in the form of stop-gap, emergency programs. Of course, these programs, especially insofar as