

tive first step was the formation of some kind of regional organization. Individual states and private groups had been doing excellent work within their operational frameworks, but I felt that all of these approaches would be able to function more effectively if the states that comprise the Appalachian Region could get together and give a visible and forceable demonstration of their united concern for the Region. Such a demonstration would underline their determination to work together at the highest state executive level in order to get the Appalachian area back on its feet and bring its economy into line with the prosperity that exists in other sections of the country.

In commenting on the gathering of Appalachian governors, an editorial in the *Baltimore Sun*, in my opinion, put our hopes as well as our doubts in excellent perspective. The *Sun* said:

"Each state with an Appalachian problem has tried to find solutions for itself. Now Governor Tawes proposes a regional approach and has invited the governors of affected states to an Annapolis conference. What can ten states do together that one cannot do alone? That is a question yet to be answered. One obvious thing is that by recognizing a common problem and getting together to discuss its varied aspects, representatives of the ten states can benefit from sharing their localized knowledge of what has proved helpful in alleviating distress. Possibly through the regional approach the affected states can actually find regional solutions, if not right away at least on a long term basis."

Long-range solutions on a regional basis—these are indeed the keys to permanent progress in the Appalachian area.

It was in this atmosphere and with this background that the first meeting of the Appalachian governors was called in Annapolis. Out of that meeting an interim committee was formed, which soon led to the formation of the permanent association of the Appalachian governors at a subsequent meeting in Kentucky. Governor Combs of Kentucky, who played a leading role at the Annapolis meeting, was elected the first chairman of the Conference.

As a result of the ideas expressed at Annapolis, the Conference of Appalachian Governors has directed most of its attention toward emphasizing two fundamental aspects of the regional approach.

These two aspects are that the region should be considered essentially underdeveloped rather than depressed, and that fundamental steps should be taken to end the isolation of the area.

The validity of both of these premises came into strong light very