

to develop an important regional program of this magnitude." Then the President went on to say that the Area Redevelopment Administration would "focus particular attention upon the opportunities—as well as the problems—of the Appalachian Region."

This third conference was by far the most successful meeting of the Appalachian governors; and I believe that it is proper to say that ever since that date the Governors Conference has been established in the minds of the administration as an advisory group and an intimate working associate of the 390-million dollar area redevelopment program.

Naturally, with an organization only a little over two years old, the beginnings have been small and the ideas have been on trial. However, I know we can say now that the principles and thoughts behind the formation of the Conference of Appalachian Governors were sound, and that the Conference has already demonstrated its ability to provide valuable services for the region which it represents.

We are all familiar with the examples of specific assistance under ARA which we have already seen here in Maryland, and I now have reason to believe that the regional program promised us a year ago by the President is beginning to take definite form.

In general terms that program will take the form of three studies of the Appalachian Region—one on transportation, one on an inventory of the current federal state and local progress operating in the area, and finally a pilot study to determine a future action program.

Once this program begins—even in a small way—the basic aims of the Appalachian Governors Conference will have taken a great step forward.

Up to now the chief task of the Conference has been to highlight and underline our firm belief that the regional approach offers the best solution to the Appalachian area's difficulties. Once this idea begins to be funded by money as well as by thoughts, the Governors Conference can be seen as a key instrument in the accomplishment of the ARA goals.

Meanwhile, we mean to strengthen the Conference and extend its influence as a unique institution for the accomplishment of an important national purpose. The recent governors meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania, underlined how vitally important it is becoming for states to get together on a regional basis to solve their common problems.