

operation. In 1960, I called for a conference in Annapolis of the governors and representatives of the 11 states of the Appalachia Region of our nation to discuss a regional approach to the economic development of this area. This initial spark grew into a full fire with the passage of President Johnson's Appalachia Program which will do so much to aid the three western counties of our State.

Our concern for safety on the roads brought into being the point system, the driver rehabilitation clinics, a tougher driving test, stiffer penalties for drunken driving, automobile inspection and minimum safety standards for new tires for passenger cars and station wagons.

With State and federal help, airports have been constructed from Ocean City to Oakland.

Our concern for the consumer and home-owner brought into being the regulation of the savings and loan and home improvement industries and our concern for justice and the reputation of our courts impelled us to improve our lower court system. To assist the four counties of Southern Maryland in adjusting to the loss of revenue from gambling devices, we have instituted a special program to benefit them.

The benefits of full citizenship in our society have been extended to all our people. Maryland has never denied the ballot to any citizen and will continue to see that all men and women receive equal justice under the law. These accomplishments stand as a monument to no man. Rather they reflect your interest in the progress of your State and your concern for the well-being of your fellow citizens.

I know that, without any urging from me, you will continue to manifest this most noble interest in the affairs of your State and your Party. However, I must urge and emphasize to you the need and in fact the absolute necessity for party unity. We all know that the primary election of 1966 will be held in September with the general election following in November. A Democrat will, and must, be my successor. But, we can insure this Democratic succession only if the Democratic Party can unite behind its candidate without a bitter and therefore possibly fruitless primary. There will be little time to reunite to face the Republican challenge.

I am doing everything possible to encourage and to achieve this necessary unity of purpose. I have met and will continue to meet with leaders of the Democratic Party to arrive at a common consensus. I look forward to your suggestions, guidance, and efforts to obtain this Democratic unity. We cannot afford the luxury of factionalism, if we