

private industry's interest in promoting the general welfare of the people it serves.

The importance of this area of Maryland to the overall growth and prosperity of our State cannot be overestimated.

Most of you, I am sure, have seen a recent report of the Federal Census Bureau which shows that this Washington Metropolitan area is the fastest growing urban center in the entire United States, outstripping such well-known areas as New York and its suburbs, the Los Angeles-Long Beach area and the San Francisco-Oakland area. From April, 1960, to July, 1963 the report shows the population of Washington and its Maryland and Virginia suburbs increased by 12.8 per cent. During that time, the population of the Washington area jumped from 1,989,377 to 2,244,000 — an increase of 254,000 inhabitants in a little more than three years. This is truly a remarkable pace, especially when it is compared with such areas as New York City and its suburbs, which gained only 5.5 per cent for the same period, the San Francisco-Oakland area, with an increase of 7.2 per cent and the Los Angeles-Long Beach area with a gain of 8 per cent.

This county—Prince George's—had a growth rate for the period of 22.4 per cent, for a total of 437,000 residents, and along with Fairfax in Virginia, is the fastest growing part of the fastest growing area of the country.

When viewed along with the near-by Baltimore metropolitan area, which is also growing at a record pace, one sees the impact of what the social scientists call the "population explosion" on the State of Maryland. To those of us who are responsible for the operation of your government, state and local, this population explosion creates problems of great magnitude—problems of meeting the needs of the present and planning for the future.

The significance of this project which we are dedicating here today, as I see it, is that it evidences the determination and the ability of the Potomac Power Company to supply the people in its operating area—the City of Washington and the suburban areas surrounding it—with the electric energy they need now and will need in years to come to maintain their homes and operate their businesses. To those of us who are responsible for planning the orderly and healthy growth of Maryland, this Chalk Point generating station represents an important milestone in the growth and development of our state. A healthy and orderly growth of our state requires careful, precise planning for its economic development, and, as we all know, eco-