

I have already backed up that commitment by signing into law bills and appropriations calling for the expenditure of over \$1 million in state funds for developmental projects in Southern Maryland. To get back to my meeting with the senators about this program — at that time and during subsequent meetings, all of them pointed out that neither their proposed program nor any developmental program for Southern Maryland could accomplish overnight miracles in the face of the kind of deep-seated economic problems that confronted the region.

I think they were partially wrong, however, and we are witness to the fact tonight. For it is at least a small miracle that an organization embracing the leadership of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties should have survived for over seven months. And the fact that the organization has not only survived, but is even stronger than ever, is almost a full-fledged, bona fide miracle. So I think that in a sense these gentlemen were understanding themselves when they told me not to expect miracles. You know, I hope you don't think I am making light of your tradition of local pride in Southern Maryland. I come from a part of Maryland which is even more independent than Southern Maryland, if this is possible. In Crisfield, I learned to have a healthy skepticism about the propositions of strangers before I learned how to open an oyster.

This is a new time and a world different from the one I grew up in. And this would have been equally true if I had grown up in Southern Maryland. 50 years ago, hard times could be faced in Southern Maryland by tightening your belt, planting a few more acres of tobacco and doing more of the work yourself or tonging a few more oysters and catching a few more fish. In short, you just "waited out" the hard times, and you were assured that you were not going to suffer too much in doing it if you were sufficiently self-reliant. But this is no longer true today. And this meeting tonight is proof that the leadership of Southern Maryland has recognized this fact, and recognized it well. Just as we no longer expect an individual to "go it alone" when an economic change costs him his livelihood, we no longer turn our backs on communities and counties when a decision or change over which they had no final control drastically affects their economy's health and stability. This is an extremely complex civilization we live in today, and the very definition of the word "complex", in economic terms, is "inter-dependency". Whether we like it or not, individuals are dependent on one another, communities are dependent on each other, even states, regions and nations affect one another's well-being and security. It is the recognition of this