

have observed that tremendous growth of not only the Towson area, but of all of Baltimore County. The change it has undergone in the past two decades is nothing short of remarkable. I myself have watched its growth with amazement. But state attracts business unless its economic climate is conducive to profitable business during working hours and pleasant living during leisure hours. We may all take pride that the State of Maryland scores high on both counts. That Maryland is attracting its share of new business and new industry is apparent from the figures available.

The State Department of Economic Development has advised me that during the first half of 1965, businessmen found the Maryland economic environment to their liking sufficiently to build or expand 98 major facilities, representing a capital investment of more than \$65 million and resulting in employment for 2,626 men and women.

This is indeed an enviable record.

I am pleased, as your Governor, to join with you here this morning in breaking the ground for this investment building, which I am told will be the largest office building in Towson, and among the largest in Baltimore County. We are proud of the confidence its builders have shown in the future of the Towson area. There is no doubt in my mind that this confidence will be rewarded.

Our State is one of the fastest growing states of the union, and this county is one of the fastest growing counties of the State. The rapid development is particularly evident in this area of the county. Furthermore, all indications are that the population expansion of Maryland will, for the most part, be concentrated in areas such as this in the suburbs of Baltimore and Washington.

We rejoice that our State is in the forefront of the march of progress which is taking place in our country. We would have it no other way.

However, we are aware that there are pitfalls to be avoided in this march. Rapid population growth and rapid economic development create problems which if left unsolved result in a detriment to the people and not a benefit to them. Here is where your government — federal, state and local — plays a key role. Urban living, as contrasted with a rural existence, is necessarily complicated, and government services totally unneeded in a rural environment become vitally essential in an urban one. Baltimore County has offered abundant evidence that it is determined to meet this, one of the greatest challenges of our time.