

State. We know that what we have done will affect beneficially the lives of Marylanders of this generation and of generations to come. We are also proud of the record we have established in the sound management of the finances of our State.

We will continue our program of progress, in education and in other fields, and we will do so without jeopardizing the strong financial condition of our State Government. I wish now to express to all of you my deep appreciation for your attendance at this special session. You are here to serve the best interests of the people of Maryland. It will be a pleasure to me, and to my staff and my Administration, to cooperate with you in every way in the performance of this duty to the people of the State.

THE STATE OF THE STATE AND ABBREVIATED BUDGET MESSAGE

January 21, 1965

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the General Assembly:

It is my happy privilege to meet with you at the beginning of another session of the General Assembly and to join forces with you in a common endeavor for the accomplishment of a single objective — the welfare of our State and its people. I am looking forward with high expectations to the weeks that lie ahead, aware of the heavy tasks we face, but resolved, as I know you are, to discharge to the limit of my ability the responsibilities I have to the people of this great State.

The opening of this 1965 session is an event of some historic importance in that it marks the beginning of 70-day annual sessions of this body. This change, I am convinced, is an improvement in the machinery of our government and offers us an opportunity to better our services to the people. By the very nature of their actions, legislative bodies shape the lives and destinies of the people they serve. For example, the character and the attitude of every generation of Marylanders were fashioned by a simple act the Maryland colonial assembly passed in 1649 guaranteeing freedom of worship to the colonists and protecting them in this freedom. And so, as we meet here today to begin another session of this Legislature, we are acutely conscious of the gravity of our responsibilities, knowing that our