

communication cooperate in informing their listeners and their readers of present day problems and they encourage thorough discussions so that guidelines may be established that will hopefully result in solutions. Today's discussion will center on the problem of what Michael Harrington refers to as "The Other America," the paradox of poverty midst plenty. Some of us, I fear, have grown indifferent to the problems of the other America and it is my hope that today's program will serve to penetrate this wall of indifference wherever it may exist. As chief executive of this State, it is, of course, one of my responsibilities to determine the appropriations for each department and agency of government before submitting them to the General Assembly for approval. And perhaps one of the most disheartening and discouraging aspects of this particular task is the continual approval I must give to the various public assistance programs. It is not, of course, because I oppose aiding the needy. As a matter of fact, I regret that the State is not in a position to do more. This task of appropriating funds for such programs is disheartening because much of the money serves only to combat the temporary effects of poverty and ignorance and does not attack the root causes. They provide subsistence but not a substantial change in environment; they provide something for the body, but little for the spirit. Those who are gripped in the cycle of poverty and despair need not only help for the present but hope for the future.

I am quite confident that, given a helping hand, future generations of Marylanders and Americans will be able to break free from this cycle of poverty, ignorance and despair. Our task is to provide for them the benefits of education so that each disadvantaged child may develop to his or her full potential and our task, also, is to mobilize the vast human and economic resources of this State and nation so that each individual seeking employment can secure a job that pays a living wage.

Positive approaches to the problems of poverty are being taken by various agencies of government at the federal, State and local levels. The passage of the Economic Opportunity Act by the Congress in 1964, creating the Job Corps and providing assistance to small businesses is but one example of what is being done to combat poverty. Here in Maryland, a State Office of Economic Opportunity has been set up and similar programs are underway in Baltimore City and other areas of Maryland. Let us not delude ourselves into thinking that these programs will rectify all the economic ills that afflict our affluent society. The importance of these programs lies in the fact that they attack the causes of poverty, ignorance and unemployment and not just the effects.