

In 1959, there were those who greeted the creation of the State Department of Economic Development with the same jeers and derisive comments that we occasionally hear leveled against the War on Poverty program. Yet, since the inception of this agency of State government, significant progress has been recorded and areas in Maryland formerly classified as depressed no longer are. Since the creation of the Department of Economic Development, the unemployment rate has consistently remained lower in Maryland than in the United States generally. The unemployment rate in the Hagerstown area dropped from 9.5 per cent in 1959 to 4.9 per cent in mid-1964. In Cambridge, the rate declined from 16.5 per cent to 5.6 per cent and in Cumberland from 10 per cent to 4.7 per cent. These figures, translated into human terms, mean jobs for men and women actively seeking employment; they mean that families threatened with separation can continue to remain together, and finally, they mean a better and healthier environment for our children.

The adoption of the new State Aid to Education program at the 1964 session of the General Assembly also will do much to offset the debilitating effects of poverty and ignorance and will contribute significantly to the destruction of the poverty cycle. But if these programs are to be successful, they must gain and retain public acceptance and public acceptance can only result from conferences such as these. My colleagues and I in State government will be most anxious to study the results of today's conference so that we may have the benefit of your thoughts and your ideas.

In closing, permit me to extend to all conference participants my sincere thanks for your concern for your fellow man and I am confident that all Marylanders join with me in praying for the success of this conference. Thank you.

ADDRESS, MARYLAND ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH
ANNAPOLIS

February 2, 1965

Mr. Barton, other officers, directors and members of the Maryland Association for Mental Health, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

The Maryland Association for Mental Health has performed a