

grams. You have before you now the first extensive study in depth of a comprehensive plan for community mental health services. Those of us who are interested in seeing a plan developed to improve our program for the treatment, care and rehabilitation of the victims of mental disorders are hopeful that this conference, with its truly impressive array of knowledge, understanding and experience, will chart the course that we are to follow in the years ahead. As I express to you my sincere appreciation for the interest you are showing in the problems of mental health in Maryland, may I also solicit the continued support of all of you in the effort that is being made to alleviate the distress of mental illness and mental retardation in our great State.

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## REMARKS WELCOMING VISTA VISITORS

### BALTIMORE

January 5, 1966

As the Governor of Maryland, it is a pleasure to welcome to our State those of you who have volunteered your services to assist in the great battle that is being waged to repel the forces of poverty. As President Johnson has said, you will be working at low pay under often difficult conditions. But you will have the inner satisfaction of knowing that you are engaged in a cause to relieve the suffering of your fellow man, and your reward is in the service itself.

The State of Maryland is proud of the fact that the School of Social Work of its University was selected by the Office of Economic Opportunity as one of the VISTA training centers. We know the center is well-equipped to offer you the training that will be required for the exacting, arduous work that will face you when you go out into the field to help poor people in all kinds of situations. I am pleased that you have been selected for training in our Maryland training center, and I hope that your brief stay in Baltimore will be both pleasant and rewarding.

Finally, may I say that you have earned the gratitude of all of us in the benevolent action you have taken to offer your time, your talent, your experience to the great effort our country is making to relieve the suffering of the impoverished and to eliminate, insofar as is possible, poverty in our great land. It is a pleasure to have you with me here this morning. I wish you a full measure of happiness and success in the task you have undertaken.