

REMARKS ON SIGNING OF STATE-FEDERAL AGREEMENT
ON MEDICARE AND SIGNING OF PERSONAL
APPLICATION FOR MEDICARE

ANNAPOLIS

January 6, 1966

During my many years of serving the people of Maryland, I have always tried to discharge my public responsibilities with the same integrity and diligence with which I meet my private responsibilities. In essence, this means furthering the quality of our lives, but doing it in a way that is financially sound and responsible.

Today, it is my pleasure to further both the public interest and a personal interest of my own. This paper that I am signing—an agreement between the State of Maryland and the Federal Government—provides that the State Public Health Department will play an important part in bringing the benefits of Medicare to many thousands of older people in Maryland when the program goes into effect next July. No longer will their financial independence be threatened by the high cost of illness that has previously made so many of our self-reliant older people poor. . . .

These second papers Mrs. Tawes and I are signing are our applications for Social Security Benefits, including Medical Insurance under Medicare. You know, no one gets this part of Medicare—the part that pays the doctor bills—unless he signs up for it.

(Governor to sign state agreement at this time.)

I will now ask Robert M. Ball, Commission of Social Security to sign the agreement on behalf of the Social Security Administration.

(Commissioner Ball signs agreement at this time and has a few remarks to make.)

(After Commissioner Ball's remarks, Governor and Mrs. Tawes will sign personal Social Security applications.)

Commissioner Ball: Congratulations, Governor Tawes you have just joined one of the most unexclusive clubs in our nation. Nearly ten million of your fellow citizens sixty-five and older have already signed up.

Governor Tawes: I can't pass up a bargain, Mr. Ball, whether it's for myself or the State of Maryland. And at \$3.00 a month Medicare