

coverage of doctor bills is a bargain. I just hope all other people in Maryland sixty-five or over join this club before it's too late.

I've signed up for both parts of the Medicare program because I know that everyone 65 or older needs this protection badly. I've seen too many instances where a man's life savings have gone down the drain because of a major illness in old age. Medicare will help pay much of these costs. That's why I urge everyone 65 or older . . . take advantage of Medicare. Sign up by March 31st. I'm glad I have this protection even though I hope I never will have to use it.

STATEMENT ON SIGNING SENATE BILL 12

ANNAPOLIS

April 13, 1966

This bill which we are now signing provides for an administrative structure and a program to make available community mental health services to all citizens of Maryland. This places our State in the position of moving forward in the new concept of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of the mentally ill in the local community.

I would point out here that the budget which was adopted at the recent session of the General Assembly contained the funds for the preparation of detailed plans for Maryland's first comprehensive Community Mental Health Center, which will be situated adjacent to the Medical School of the University of Maryland in Baltimore. The importance of this bill, and the significance of this day, is that it marks a new era and a new approach to mental health and mental illness. It is the hope of those who are acquainted with the problems of mental illness that we may be on the verge of moving away from the treatment of large numbers of mentally ill persons in large hospitals, removed from their community, their family and their friends.

But this bill, like other legislation, is not self-executing and self-implementing. On the contrary, it will require the continuing interest and support of the dedicated citizens who have worked hard for the passage of this legislation if the dream of community mental health care in all sections of our State is to become a reality.

In signing this bill, I feel certain that we have taken another step forward in providing better care and better treatment for the mentally ill of our State.