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## HISTORY OF MARYLAND

*Maryland's long and colorful history provided the text for numerous public addresses by Governor Tawes. He felt that all Marylanders should be well-versed in the State's contributions to the birth and development of the American nation. Possessed of a wide-ranging knowledge of the State's history, the Governor used the occasion of important anniversaries and special events to remind his listeners of the proud deeds of previous generations. He proclaimed January 14 as Ratification Day in commemoration of the ratification of the Treaty of Paris. That event, which took place in the old Maryland State House in 1784, ended the American Revolution and established the United States as an independent, sovereign nation. The Governor also took an active part as Maryland joined in observance of the centennial of the American Civil War, a particularly poignant era in the State's history.*

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### ADDRESS RATIFICATION DAY

#### ANNAPOLIS

January 14, 1963

I am delighted to be able to greet you again on the anniversary of the signing of the ratification of the Treaty of Paris, a most significant event in the history of our State and nation.

A few years ago, I proclaimed January 14 Ratification Day because I thought that this act of ratification should be honored by Americans as highly as Independence Day. By the Declaration of Independence, we Americans proclaimed our freedom from England. Through the Treaty of Paris, England recognized our freedom.

We Marylanders have reason to be proud of the fact that the event occurred in this historic State House. In January, 1784, this building was the meeting place of the United States Congress, and, therefore, the Capitol of the United States. So, we today are commemorating Ratification Day on the very site in which the event occurred.

All of us have heard the story of the beginning of the American Revolution. And most of us are inclined to think that it came to a close at Yorktown when Lord Cornwallis surrendered to George Wash-