

in the councils of government. As a responsible, law-abiding people, we must, of course, accept this decision. Therefore, we must take *immediate steps to establish congressional districts and to apportion the membership of this General Assembly to conform with the rules the courts have laid down.* To do less, and not to do it now, would be an unfortunate neglect of our duties as responsible public officials.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, let me express my appreciation to you for affording me this opportunity to suggest to you some of the proposals I have in mind for the betterment of our State and its people. I wish for each of you a very pleasant stay in our capital city and for all of our people a constructive legislative session. May the blessings of Divine Providence be with you, and with all the people, as we work together to make Maryland a better place in which to dwell and a stronger factor in the life of our nation.

ADDRESS, SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

October 11, 1965

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the General Assembly:

The people of Maryland, through the Constitution they have adopted, have prescribed seventy days of legislative duty for you here each year, with the provision that you may be convened in special session "on extraordinary occasions." Today is such an extraordinary occasion. The task you face here at this extraordinary session is to *reapportion the membership of both houses of the General Assembly* in such a way as to meet the requirements that the courts have laid down to give all citizens equal representation in their legislative bodies. Your duty is clear plain, unmistakable. You must apportion the membership of this General Assembly in such a way as to give every citizen a substantially equal voice in the deliberations and decisions of your two bodies.

The hour of decision has arrived. The Maryland General Assembly must meet head on the mandate of the Supreme Court of the United States and reapportion both Houses in accordance with the "one man, one vote" theme enunciated by the Supreme Court on June 15, 1964. It matters not whether one agrees with the Court's pronounce-