

no hesitancy in saying that it is its dependence upon scafaring and its knowledge and love of the sea.

The people of Maryland, therefore, are most proud and most happy that the United States Coast Guard has chosen its capital city—this historic city where so many chapters of naval and maritime history have been written—as a site for this new Coast Guard installation. It is my understanding that this vessel which we are commissioning here this afternoon is in the nature of a Coast Guard experiment—is a prototype unit, the first of its kind, on which similar installations will be patterned if the experiment proves successful. We all hope it will be a success, of course, and we of Maryland are pleased that you have chosen this city as the site upon which to conduct your experiment. As a practical matter, we all rejoice that this new facility is being added to enhance the ever-growing small-boat activities of this section of our State. I am no expert in such things, but it occurs to me that the establishment of a permanent station of this type is greatly needed and will be a definite asset to the public and to the Coast Guard in our Maryland waters—in the great Port of Baltimore with its intensified maritime activities and on the Bay, rivers and estuaries where fishing and pleasure-boat activities abound. The Maryland Department of Tidewater Fisheries and the crews who man that Department's enforcement fleet have spoken to me many times about the cooperation and support they have received from the United States Coast Guard in the effort they make to enforce the laws, to facilitate the movement of vessels and to insure the safety of all persons using these waters. I, of course, will expect and require this Department, and all other State agencies which may be involved, to reciprocate with full cooperation and assistance. We are engaged in a common task, with a common purpose, and I think you will agree with me that we can achieve maximum results only if we work together.

For the fine spirit that the Coast Guard has shown, let me express my sincere thanks to all of you who are here representing this splendid arm of our federal government. I am convinced that, although a small gesture, the establishment of this permanent Coast Guard Station—the mooring of this houseboat and the two search-and-rescue vessels—will strengthen the bonds of friendship between the citizens of Maryland and the men who “go down to the sea in ships” and bolster the State's identification with those who “do business in great waters.”

To the officers and men who will crew these vessels, let me say that it is a pleasure to have you as neighbors here in Annapolis. I wish you all happiness in your stay here and a full measure of success in your assignment.