

Our founding fathers devised a Republic, complete with a system of checks and balances, which has served as a model for 100 nations founded thereafter. The world has changed, almost beyond recognition, since that time, but the democracy created by these men has not changed, and their concept of a people, safeguarded in their choice of religion, their freedom of speech, and freedom from oppression, has flowered and grown. Their America, and our America, is a "nation of laws, and not of men," and it is that fact which has preserved America while other governments have withered and died. Our constitution and laws reflect the fact that government is the servant of its people and not their master, and those laws exist to safeguard the personal and property rights of all Americans.

There are those who decry the changes which our growing population and spreading industrialization have brought about in America. There are those who say that one branch of government or another has usurped functions of government not rightfully theirs. American history, however, reveals that such charges and accusations were even more prevalent in the administrations of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson than they are today. Indeed, the stream of criticism of America, by Americans, which has existed throughout our history pays tribute to our democratic ideals and at the same time strengthens our democratic processes.

On this Law Day, U.S.A.—1966, I ask all of the people of Maryland to join with me in reflecting on our debt to our system of government: our system of laws. Our future as a nation is assured, just as long as our people respect our laws and our laws respect our citizens.