

We are, of course, in the District of Columbia, and while in their hearts all Americans feel that this is their city, we in Maryland believe we enjoy ties with the national capital that are stronger than those of others. It is not just that we are closer to it physically than most others. It is our awareness of the **historical, cultural and economic** inseparability of Maryland and the Federal District. Geographically, the District of Columbia is a virtual enclave in Maryland territory. Historically, all the land now in the District was once a part of the territory which Charles I of England granted to Cecil Calvert, calling it Terrae Mariae—Maryland.

But all of this is somewhat digressive. The point I am coming to is that I hope that those of you who have traveled from some distance to come to this meeting will find the opportunity to spend a little of your time, at least, in Maryland . . .

Before coming here today, I was privileged to examine the program for the County Information Congress, and I was profoundly impressed by the vast amount of talent and experience which you have brought together here to discuss your main subject—the responsibility of public officials to keep the public fully informed. In my correspondence with him, your Executive Director, Mr. Bernard Hillenbrand, suggested that in addition to my welcoming remarks I might have something to say about that important subject. I am grateful to him for the suggestion, for I do have some pronounced ideas on the subject—some ideas which have guided me through my 34 years in public service.

In the address which I delivered at my first inauguration as Governor of Maryland—in 1959—I propounded certain principles which I said were to be the foundation stones of my Administration. Among them was the doctrine: “Keep the public informed,” and in discussing it, I said:

“In a democratic state, no program can be successful unless it is supported by the people, and a people cannot participate effectively in a program unless they understand it.”

I pointed out that our State, like all others, is confronted at every turn with demands for services—services which almost invariably cost the public more money. In such circumstances, any stealth or any secrecy of operations on the part of those governing is intolerable. And so I said, in this my first speech as Governor, that I considered it to be my duty, and the duty of every public official, to do everything possible to remove any area of doubt or misunderstanding that might exist in the public mind as to the effect of a policy or a program.