

of men who believe in the truth and pursue it with zeal and resolution. It is the heritage of men who devote themselves to spiritual ideals, scorning that which is vain, cheap or artificial in life. It is the heritage of men with a deep respect and reverence for their families, their church and their country. It is the heritage of men who love their neighbors as they are expected to do under the teachings of Christ. It is the heritage of men, who, in the words of the Scriptures, do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with their God.

May I, in conclusion, repeat that I am honored to be present at the opening of this conference. Let us pray fervently that the Almighty will shower his blessings upon these deliberations and upon all those who participate in them.

ADDRESS, ANNUAL MARYLAND CHURCHMEN'S
LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

ANNAPOLIS

February 9, 1966

It is indeed a pleasure for me to again address the Maryland Churchmen's Legislative Seminar. As the Reverend Mr. Bunce, your excellent chairman, indicated in his letter of invitation to me, the Legislative Seminar has known no other Governor than myself. This streak will be broken next year because, as I am certain you all know, this is my last year of eight years as your Governor.

Not long ago, I happened to be leafing through a sheaf of papers listing many of my past speaking engagements and, frankly, I was quite pleased to note that I speak far more frequently to religious groups than to any other. This served to remind me that, even though I have been active in the public affairs of Maryland for more than three decades and even though I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the great game of politics for longer than I care to remember, my interest in the activities of my church has not, in the least, diminished. As a matter of fact, the reverse is true, for when I assumed the burden of high public office, my need for spiritual guidance and inspiration greatly increased.

Decision is inherent to the office of chief executive. I know of few men who don't, after all advisors have offered their opinions, turn within themselves and seek guidance from God in such times. The decision may affect only one life or perhaps the lives of many, but in either case the burden is tremendous. It is at such times that spiritual