

of private industry and the federal government in this Conference. Indeed, the meeting would be meaningless without the presence of both groups. Members of the Science Resources Advisory Board, which I appointed last year, were most persuasive when they approached me some months ago to stress the importance of studies looking toward the exploration and development of this the last great frontier of our planet—the oceans. The federal government's interest in the National Oceanographic program, as is indicated by the amount of money it has expended, has almost quadrupled during the past eight years. I am told that the budget for next year is expected to include some \$138 million for that purpose.

It is our conclusion that Maryland is a highly suitable place for holding annual conferences on the Oceanographic Program. Ours is a maritime state, and has been since the sailors aboard the Ark and the Dove dropped anchor near the mouth of the Potomac 330 years ago and put ashore the first band of Maryland settlers. Our ties with the sea have been intimate from the very beginning. Ocean commerce has been, and remains, the economic lifeblood of our State. The social and cultural aspects of our society have been molded by our proximity to the great ocean waterways. Our destiny is linked inevitably to the seas. It is small wonder, then, that Maryland is keenly aware of the renewed interest in the explorations of oceans, their phenomena, their resources. In this connection, we consider ourselves to be in a most fortunate position in our proximity to Washington, D. C., the nerve center of today's vast new oceanographic program and a mecca of oceanic scientists, engineers and others who are concerned with this rapidly growing field of endeavor.

I have seen the program for today's events here, and I am profoundly impressed both by the scope of your discussions and the great amount of talent you have gathered together here to discuss specific projects in the field. I know that the representatives of industry who are here consider themselves as fortunate in being able to hear from government officials as to what services are needed and what problems are to be investigated by the National Oceanographic Program in future years. In brief, I am sure that we have assembled here the experience, the knowledge and the wisdom that is required for a thorough exploration by industry and government of the complex problems related to the non-defense aspects of oceanography.

May I, once again, say that it is a joy and a pleasure to welcome you to Maryland for this first Governor's Conference on the National Oceanographic Program. It is my hope that today's Conference will