

thousands of girls will pass through this State school. It is our aim and purpose to give them the kind of training and guidance they need to be returned to their communities as soon as possible.

The buildings which have been erected here represent a good investment of public funds, because it is an investment in the youth of our State. Regarding this investment—the investment in our children—let me offer you a quotation from an ancient philosopher, the Greek Socrates: “If I could get to the highest place in Athens,” he said, “I would lift up my voice and say: ‘What mean ye, fellow citizens, that ye turn every stone to scrape wealth together, and take so little care of your children, to whom one day ye must relinquish all.’”

As we dedicate these buildings, then, let us make a solemn pledge to work tirelessly for the better care of our children into whose hands we entrust the future of our State.

ADDRESS, RAZING OLD MAIN BUILDING
SPRING GROVE STATE HOSPITAL,
CATONSVILLE

March 18, 1964

Mr. Smith, Reverend members of the clergy, Dr. Tuerk, Dr. Radauskas, Mr. Backhaus, Mr. Rennie, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

This is indeed a rare event and an uncommon ceremony. We have met here not to celebrate the creation of a new public building but to proclaim the destruction of an old one. The ceremony nevertheless is quite appropriate and in fact is highly significant. The old building which we are about to tear down is replete with symbolism. In a proper appraisal of history, it represents some of the finest of pioneering achievements in the care and treatment of the mentally ill.

More than three-quarters of a century ago, an enlightened and understanding superintendent of the Spring Grove Hospital ordered the removal of such restrictive devices as the straightjacket and the dark room and prescribed for the patients of the institution sunshine, fresh air and freedom. Spring Grove, with Old Main Building at its core, has been the center of some of the most advanced psychiatric thought and practice. The hospital did some of the pioneering research in several forms of shock therapy. Some of the first tranquilizing drugs were used for research purposes in the Old Main Building.