

any other single condition—is certainly an accurate description. That mental illness and mental retardation are our most critical health problems is evident to all of us. That the problems will become any less acute in the foreseeable future is highly doubtful. Therefore, we must rise to the challenge we face, and, as good citizens, accept our obligation to do all within our power to combat these twin scourges—mental illness and mental retardation.

Let me again express my appreciation to the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Department of Public Improvements for inviting me to attend these dedicatory exercises. The State of Maryland is pleased to add these two facilities to its physical plant for the care and treatment of the mentally retarded. Let us dedicate the buildings to the better health of the people of Maryland—that the future will bring us less pain and less suffering and a greater enjoyment of heaven's richest blessing, good health.

REMARKS, MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

HAGERSTOWN

September 18, 1964

Mr. Peppersack, Reverend members of the clergy, Mr. Anderson, Senator Snyder, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

This is an important event in the history of Maryland's attempt to operate a modern, progressive correctional program. We are here today to dedicate a new building that has been constructed for the purpose of rehabilitating and returning to society citizens who have been convicted and sent to prison for commission of crimes against society. The building which we are dedicating symbolizes the effort your State government is making to treat malefactors not as the enemies of society but as citizens susceptible of reform and rehabilitation.

This pre-release center of the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown has been planned, constructed and programmed to assist prisoners in making the difficult transition from a non-competitive prison society to the competitive society which most of us enjoy. Its purpose is to prepare the inmate realistically for the problems he will be facing when he is released from confinement and returned to society. The program which will be carried out here will provide the prisoner soon to be released with the tools and the guides with which he can work after he is released and returned to society.