

will continue to do so. The only sensible course of action open to any responsible executive officer in government is to make the decision that, in good conscience, he believes to be in the best interests of the people and then stick to it. This is exactly what I have attempted to do during the past six years, and thus far, while State services have been expanded and improved upon immensely, there has been no increase in taxes to finance the sort of State government. And, if I receive a report from the State Board of Revenue Estimates that indicates our economy is continuing its strong surge forward, then there exists a possibility that I will be spared the necessity of increasing taxes during the remainder of my term in office.

Nothing would make me happier than completing my eight years as Governor of Maryland without having had to impose an increase in taxes upon you.

In closing, permit me to say once again that it certainly is good to be home again if only for a little while. Thank you kindly for inviting me to be here with you and I'll be looking forward to seeing you again after my return from Texas.

ADDRESS, SOUTHERN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

October 13, 1964

I am always pleased to have an opportunity to discuss common problems with the Governors of the other Southern States. These conferences, I feel, would be of immense value even if they served no other purpose. I make no pretension that the problems I have chosen to discuss with you today are in any way unique. In fact, it is probable that none of us could cite many experiences that the others of us have not known.

In looking back over nearly six years in the Office of Governor of Maryland, I think one of the toughest tasks I have faced has been to try to convince the taxpaying public that the new programs and new services which they demand of their government will cost them money. It is difficult to understand why this should be so, for certainly people know that the goods and services they get from individuals or private businesses must be paid for. And certainly government is in no better position to offer goods and services free of cost than are private individuals and private businesses. And yet, somehow, in the thinking of too many at least, government is expected to perform this miracle.