

of men I have known for years who are in the group you honored. Your excellent executive secretary, Mr. Bill Hardy, tells me that in the future all retiring presidents will be honored similarly and I think that is a splendid idea.

Today, gentlemen, I would like, with your permission, to guide our thoughts for a few moments in the direction of the future. We all know what strides Maryland has made over the past few years in the construction of a backbone system of highways, highways able to move great volumes of people and goods with a maximum of efficiency in every part of our State. To be aware of this, you only have to drive from point to point in Maryland and note the ever-shrinking amount of time it takes you to make a specific trip.

In the Baltimore region, commuters continually tell me how much time has been taken off their daily trips from home to work and work to home because of the construction of such fine facilities as the Baltimore Beltway and the Jones Falls Expressway. In the Washington region of Maryland, the same thing is true in some sectors because of the dualization of heavily-traveled radials. Time has been cut off longer trips because of highway improvements. The trip from Annapolis to Washington is now much more easily negotiated because of the completion of the John Hanson Highway. The travel time from Baltimore and Washington to Easton and Cambridge has been reduced substantially because of the dualization of U. S. Route 50 on the Eastern Shore. The difficult construction in and around the mountains of Allegany County on U. S. Route 40 has made the trip to Cumberland from the east safer and faster.

Additional work is underway in all parts of the State, holding the promise of even more convenience and safety for the motorists of Maryland. To accomplish this, the partnership between government and private enterprise has functioned well. The Maryland contracting industry has responded energetically to the demands the people have made upon our roadbuilders. Even in emergency situations—and I recall last winter's storm at Ocean City particularly—the contracting industry of Maryland was ready, willing and able and did respond to the call from government to help in the big job of rebuilding our State's lone ocean resort.

I know that government can continue to expect this type of cooperation and willingness on the part of the contractors of our State to do a job fast and to do it well. I know that you, as businessmen, and as residents who deeply love Maryland, are as interested as I in the future of our State and you, as well as I, want to see our State grow economically