

This means that new factories, warehouses and stores will locate within our State, bringing with them untold new wealth. It also means that far Western Maryland will be within one day's journey from our metropolitan area. Tourists and vacationers will fill the mountains. Recreation itself will be the major industry.

I ask you to remember these projects as you ride the freeway we are opening today. They are not merely a hopeful dream. They are being planned and constructed. Maryland has built this road for your safety and comfort. Use it well. It is your reminder of the bright future which has been planned for you.

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ADDRESS, MARYLAND HIGHWAYS  
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
BALTIMORE

February 14, 1966

Mr. Luppino, other officers, directors and members of the Maryland Highways Contractors Association, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am honored indeed to be present again as the Maryland Highway Contractors Association holds another annual industry meeting. I recall that it was seven years ago that I spoke to this organization for the first time as Governor of the State. At that time I discussed with you in broad terms the hope I had of creating a road system in Maryland second to none in the country. Now that more than seven years have passed, and I am in the final months of my second and last term as Governor, the record of the highway building of this Administration is pretty well written. I think it is a record of which all of us who have had a part in its establishment can be proud. As I told the members of the General Assembly as they convened in Annapolis for the commencement of the current session, the year 1965 saw this Administration break through the half-billion dollar mark in converting dollars into roads—no mean accomplishment by any standard of measurement.

I know that most of you here today are as conversant with road-building statistics as I am. But since this, in all probability is my final message to you as Governor, and since our discussion has come around to the accomplishments of this Administration, I should like to offer you a few figures which indicate the significant advancements we have made in the construction of highways in the State. Payments to contractors