

State government, as I have suggested, is to create the kind of circumstances in which the farmer can be most successful in what he does. We are doing this in reasearch, in the application of the findings of research through our Extension Service and in the various service and control programs in behalf of agriculture.

As the chief executive of the State, I have tried for the past seven and a half years to bring about a greater prosperity for Maryland farmers. By emphasizing agricultural research, and by giving additional assistance to the farmers in such fields as water conservation, disease and insect control, drainage, irrigation and a wide variety of other services, I feel that we have been able to improve the condition of the farmers of our State. The figures on that score are impressive, to say the least. In 1959, my first year in office, the gross cash sales from the farms of Maryland totaled \$263 million. Last year that figure had reached \$321 million. Cash sales per commercial farm over that seven-year span increased by about 40 per cent. Two products — broilers and milk — account for more than half of the gross sales from our farms. The progress in these areas of production is reflected in the corn yield. In 1959, the 413,000 acres of corn harvester yielded a total of 22.5 million bushels, for an average of 54.5 bushels an acre. In 1965, Maryland farmers produced in excess of 37 million bushels of corn from 501,000 acres or a per-acre yield of 74 bushels. The gigantic strides that are being made in scientific farming are evident in these figures, and in particular the figure on yield per acre.

On the national scene, according to information I have received, there is no longer the concern that there was only a few years ago over farm surpluses, except perhaps for cotton and tobacco. The concern now is producing enough farm products to supply the food needs of the world. With the ghost of farm surpluses laid, and with the growing demand for more production to meet world needs, the future of agriculture in the United State is bright. There is every reason for us to hope and expect that Maryland will benefit from this trend. And so, the opportunities for those of you who are going into farming during the next few years look good indeed.

Now, I should like to say this before I conclude these remarks: I am told that the Keep Maryland Beautiful Committee has asked the cooperation of the Future Farmers of America in the distribution of litter baskets. You know, as I said earlier, we are most fortunate in the gifts the Creator bestowed upon our lovely State. It is our responsibility as good citizens to keep it beautiful. Any help that you