
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Governor Tawes saw his concept of a regional attack on the economic problems of the Appalachian region brought to fruition during his second term. The creation by Congress in 1965 of the Appalachian Regional Commission represented the federal-state-regional approach advocated by the Governor when he convened the first Conference of Appalachian Governors at Annapolis in May, 1960. During hearings on the proposed legislation in 1964 and 1965, he appeared before Congressional committees to offer strong supportive arguments.

The economic rehabilitation of Western Maryland's Appalachian counties was a major objective of the State's economic development programs. But the Governor was convinced that only through the cooperation of all the states in the region could real progress be made. Toward that end, he urged a massive road-building program to open up the region to commerce and travel as the first step. "Isolation," he said, was "the curse of Appalachia."

After its first year of operation, observers were agreed that the Appalachian program was proceeding successfully. In recognition of his role as a leader in the development of this unique program, his fellow Appalachian governors in 1966 elected Governor Tawes as State Co-Chairman of the Commission.

REMARKS, PRESIDENT'S APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION CONFERENCE

HAGERSTOWN

November 22, 1963

Ladies and gentlemen, Secretary Roosevelt, Governor Lane, representative of the federal and state governments and friends and neighbors from Western Maryland:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here today to this conference of the President's Appalachian Regional Commission. I know from looking at Mr. Sweeney's memorandum and other documents, that you have much to discuss and review here in this one-day session, so I will make my remarks brief.