

to convince you that we are firmly embarked on a course of progressive action for the next four years. And in pursuing these objectives, I ask for your indulgence and support—not only for the administration, but for the Montgomery County legislators of both political parties who have shown the courage to forsake political expediency to act in what they thought to be the best interests of the State as a whole. Withhold a final judgment, if you will, until the results are in.

I have just come here from an interesting meeting with the leaders of your local government, at which we discussed some problems of immediacy to Montgomery County and of concern to the State. I hope that in the weeks and months ahead we can act together, constructively, for the solution of these problems and in opening new areas of mutual interest and cooperation between the State and County governments.

The newspaper which we honor at this dedication today reflects, in many ways, the story of what has been happening to Montgomery County, and in fact to the State of Maryland.

In its tremendous recent growth and in its move to this handsomely remodeled, modernly equipped building—which I understand formerly served as a firehouse—it represents a symbolic unity of the past and the future, continuity and expansion, tradition and development.

First published in 1855, it is the oldest continuing newspaper in Montgomery County and is one of the oldest in the State. I am told that only once during its 112-year history did the *Sentinel* fail to publish regularly. That was in the spring of the turbulent year of 1864, when its founder-editor, Matthew Fields, was jailed by Federal authorities for his militant pro-Confederate editorials.

In that same year, the third State Constitution in Maryland's history was ratified—a Constitution inspired by the bitterness of the times. The document included the repugnant Test Oath that effectively disenfranchised a multitude of Maryland's citizens, who were in reality—or at least under suspicion as—Southern sympathizers.

Only three years later, when sanity was restored to both our State and our nation, this Constitution with its Test Oath was replaced by the very Constitution that shapes our government today. As the first editor of the *Sentinel* saw the turbulence and the trauma of his personal experience reflected in the Constitution of 1864, it is my hope that the present editor and the publishers of the *Sentinel* shall see the growth and the confidence that inspired their modern newspaper plant reflected in the development of Maryland's new Constitution this fall.