

Montgomery County's population not only reside in, but work in, this County.

What is true for Montgomery County is also true for Maryland on an even larger scale. The tremendous political implications of *unprecedented commercial expansion and population growth* are just beginning to be recognized, brought into proper perspective and subordinated through constructive control.

Political reapportionment has not only proved a substantial benefit to Montgomery County but to the entire State. Fiscal reform, as agonizing as it was imperative, will furnish the citizens, the counties and the State with an equitable and adequate financial foundation to provide both the quantity and the quality of expanding governmental services rightfully demanded by Maryland's citizens.

Montgomery County can point with pride to the multitude and excellence of services its local government has continued to render throughout its period of massive growth. But one special segment of its citizens—the property owners—have borne the major fiscal burden. Through the provision of the local option income tax, last year the pattern of a constantly escalating property tax was reversed. This year, through fiscal reform—which incidentally includes State aid for kindergartens and kindergarten construction for the first time—the County is able to continue this pattern and reduce the property tax once again while increasing teachers' salaries, expanding the police force and reorganizing its Department of Health.

Yet there is much to be done. As the *Sentinel* was once challenged to catch up with Montgomery County, now Montgomery is challenged to *continue its lead in enlightened local government while assuming a larger partnership in the welfare of the State as a whole.*

In the last few months at Annapolis, we have been made aware that a number of Montgomery County citizens, agonizing about the tax reform bill, would cheerfully secede from the State if it could be practically and conveniently arranged. They appear to be unaware of the long years when Baltimore City contributed generously to the benefit of Montgomery County's State-supported institutions.

In their proximity to Washington, these particular citizens fail to see the value of the Port of Baltimore or of the State government to their area of residence. This, of course, is the shortsighted view. Both are of primary importance to the residents of Montgomery County.