

NEWS CONFERENCE

January 17, 1967

Opening Statement by the Governor-Elect

I am very pleased today to announce the appointment of Mr. Charles S. Bresler of Montgomery County to the newly created position of National Relations Officer on my personal staff, this appointment to be effective January 25th.

The purpose of this position is to bring about a closer, more effective coordination between the Governor's office and the Legislature, on the one hand, and all the State agencies on the other. The office also gives more effective recognition to State affairs in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, which now contain about one-third of our total State population. Later on we intend to establish an actual physical office of the Governor somewhere in the metropolitan Washington area. Mr. Bresler will be based in this area.

Presently there are about 500 federal aid programs including 100 programs in the area of urban development alone. We feel that these should be more closely supervised and handled. In many cases, the use of federal funds involves a decision. We don't have sufficient State monies to take advantage of all these programs and we have to sift through them and decide which ones are the most advantageous, the most immediate in our regard.

Mr. Bresler has been a member of the Maryland legislature, a fiscal watchdog during the past four years. He did not seek reelection. As most of you know he ran for the office of Comptroller on my ticket. He was unsuccessful in that quest, but he is an extremely capable man, a man who is aggressive and vital and has the ability to cut through red tape. I believe that he will do an excellent job for the State in this newly created position.

In addition to that, gentlemen, I would like to call to your attention that Mr. Tilton Dobbin, President of the Maryland National Bank, who was one of my primary advisers during the recent campaign and who at my request had decided to seek the office of the State Treasurer, has sent me a letter dated January 16, which I would like to read to you. The letter states that:

As you know I was greatly complimented by your request to serve your administration in the State of Maryland as Treasurer.