

Maryland has, since its inception, been an active partner in our nation's space program. The Glenn L. Martin Company of Middle River, near Baltimore, has pioneered in the development of those rockets whose tremendous thrusts are necessary to propel man into space. Smaller and less conspicuous industries, scattered throughout the State, are engaged in the development and fabrication of the sensitive and highly complex equipment components vital to the conquest of space.

Maryland's private and public universities are deeply involved in the essential research which will assure the quality and control of our nation's space program. Over 75,000 square feet of space and some of the most sophisticated equipment ever constructed, housed in the Space Sciences Building, represent the latest, tangible contribution to this effort to explore the universe.

To date, our State, with the benefit of Federal funds and private enterprise, has played a major role in our nation's greatest endeavor — the conquest of space. The State government has not been a passive partner, and I would be remiss and unjust to claim that such was the case. However, I believe, State government has barely scratched the surface in its efforts to buttress, fortify and encourage the participation of Maryland's citizens and industry in the space program. While we must make every effort to assist in the expansion of the State's private space industry and to finance research at the graduate level, we must enlarge educational programs at the undergraduate level. We must provide vocational high school training and curricula in community colleges that will assure a supply of skilled and competent laboratory technicians and industrial workers as a vital complement to the existing cadre of space oriented manpower.

We must begin exciting our children in the primary grades in the challenges, qualifications, and opportunities of participation in the scientific exploration of the universe, so that they will be motivated to channel their intellectual energies in this direction. While this program may seem extraordinarily ambitious in scope, it is only commensurate with the awesome objectives of our nation's space program. And if the construction of special facilities and the supply of complex equipment is a costly investment, it can be justified in terms of enlightened self-interest. For if Maryland's space industries are to grow, we must nourish the roots. Industry itself, I am certain, will become an active partner in this effort, contributing essential technical advice as to curricula and, hopefully, a share of the complex equipment necessary to train skilled and responsible workers for the factories.