

1966, when the electorate was forced to determine once and for all times — whether to affirm the future or be consumed by past prejudices. At that time the voters cast an overwhelming mandate to reject the past and to speak for a progressive, enlightened and action-minded Maryland.

In my inaugural address, I paid tribute to this new spirit, when I called for a new state of mind for Maryland, a new leadership dedicated to and directed toward the pursuit of excellence. I challenged every member of the General Assembly seated before me to share this attitude and embrace this resolve; to put the good of his State first and the special interest of his constituents second; to put the pride of his State first and the patronage of his district second; to value the worth of his work and not the recognition which might follow. I called on these representatives of the people to join me in a new alliance rejecting the obstructive partisanship of the past and tradition that failed to serve or inspire. A new alliance of *people... principle... progress*.

I knew then, as I know today, that once we achieve success in changing the state of mind so surely will we achieve success in changing the State of Maryland. And the State, my friends, has changed and is changing. We have changed from partisans locked in battle to partners joined in progress, from a government which was loathe to try to a government which refuses to fail.

During the 1967 session of the General Assembly alone, we provided nearly \$16 million in State funds to directly assist local law enforcement agencies in combatting the escalating crime rate that has plagued Maryland's subdivisions. We provided over \$20 million to assure the construction and operation of public kindergartens throughout the State. We have achieved fair housing legislation which will constructively help to break the barriers centuries have built. We have moved steadily from a haphazard and piecemeal approach to controlling air and water pollution to the development of some of the most progressive programs in the United States for its prevention and elimination. We have enabled the writing of a new constitution; and in several significant and controversial legislative actions put the past to rest and the future in perspective.

Credit for much that was accomplished during the seventy-day session at the General Assembly belongs to the senators and delegates of both parties who rose to the challenge and forthrightly confronted the difficult and sometimes politically uncomfortable problems demanding