

REMARKS AT GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE ON DELMARVA
DEVELOPMENT, REHOBOTH BEACH, DELAWARE

May 11, 1967

Governor Terry, Governor Godwin, Governor Tawes, President McMath, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to join you for this second conference on Economic Development of Delmarva. If it is as productive as your first one, which resulted in forming the Delmarva Advisory Council three years ago, it will indeed have been a significant meeting.

The Council has already established itself as a force for guiding the transformation of this peninsula into a major attraction for tourists and industry. I compliment those citizens of the three states who are giving freely of their time to serve on the Council and also its full-time Executive Director, Mr. Worthington J. Thompson.

It was because of the Council's initiative that the Federal Economic Development Administration designated the Peninsula south of the C & D Canal as an Economic Development District. I understand that this is one of the first such districts to have been designated by the EDA, and that it is further along in its project planning than any other district in the country.

The designation means that the newly designated growth centers of Salisbury and Dover are able to obtain a variety of federally financed planning and technical assistance grants and public works facilities that would not otherwise be available.

We are witnessing, ladies and gentlemen, a remarkable transformation of the economy of this region, and its room for growth is almost boundless. Agriculture, seafood and light industry such as food processing have long been mainstays of the economy and will continue to play a major role. But we now see added to them a diversification of industry such as the new brush manufacturing plant of the Rubber-set Corporation in Crisfield and the Western Printing and Lithographing Company in Cambridge. In fact, there have been 24 new manufacturing plants and 28 expansions of existing plants on Maryland's Eastern Shore in the 3 years and 5 months since the first Conference on Economic Development of Delmarva. Only two of the new plants during this period have been food processors; the others are diversified, ranging from plywood manufacturing to production of lithographers' plates.