

"In this State, at least, the excuse for cutting the Federal appropriation is not valid. We are ready to proceed and will have to advance nearly \$17 million to cover the deficit in Federal funding as now projected for 1968. That is why I urge you to reconsider the original \$450 million authorized for next year rather than the \$200 million you have requested.

"I know that this is a matter in which you are sincerely interested and I will be most appreciative of your favorable consideration of this request."

---

ADDRESS AT GRADUATION EXERCISES, UNIVERSITY  
OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

June 3, 1967

Dr. Elkins, Members of the Board of Regents, Honored Guests, Members of the Graduating Classes, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Against the backdrop of our times, where passion more often than pride marks the nation's assemblies, it is good that we can still meet at commencement, observing a tradition that asks of the audience only that its inattention be polite, and of the speaker only that his speech be brief.

When this ceremony is done we will all be the richer for it: every student who has worked for this day; every teacher who has scored the last examination for this class; every parent who has lived, labored and even sacrificed for this moment; and one governor who shall cherish his honorary doctorate even while he remembers that it is conferred as much in tribute to the office which he holds as it is to the man upon whom it has been bestowed.

You will soon learn, if you are not already aware, that a diploma is priceless currency that will admit you to places and positions denied the many without it. And in a world that judges much by appearances, that diploma will be to you a passport to the vital and real world of competitive commerce. When an official paper certifies that you have been duly educated, you will not only be presumed intelligent, but would be sorely pressed to prove that you are not. The hope of course is that you justify your claim to certification, to the title "educated