

ADDRESS TO FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN
OF MARYLAND, OCEAN CITY

June 10, 1967

Republican Women of Maryland:

The most important thing I want to say today is thank you. Thank you for your efforts, your energy, your enthusiasm which contributed so much to our victory last November . . . and has enabled me to address you today as the Governor of Maryland.

Certainly, the power of women in Maryland's Republican Party cannot be underestimated, for in the State's three centuries as a political entity only five Republicans have occupied the office of Governor. And three of these five have come to power since women have won their right to vote. Only two men were able to do it without you — and they didn't know the fun they missed!

For women in general, and you in particular, have brought new vigor, vision and vitality to politics and to government. And while I promise not to promote my wife as my successor, that is not to say a woman's role is only that of a campaigner and never a candidate for highest office.

Today, we live in a world of images often fabricated by image makers and just as often by the habit of history. Just look at what the image makers, the Madison Avenue advertising czars have done to you.

If one goes by television commercials, American women are housewives and mothers whose clothes are designed by Chanel, whose hair is coiffed by Kenneth, and whose sole dedication is to seek out the best low-priced spread, the most activated cleanser and the deepest cleaning detergent. Home is a place where no one would hear a discouraging word as he glides across floors on invisible shields, watching doves flying into kitchens; and the most momentous challenge facing a mother today is to see that the family brush their teeth after every meal.

If, however, you chose to reject this image as unrealistic, the alternative view of you is positively surrealistic. This is your Broadway image whose most notable exponent today is Edward Albee. He sees woman as the predator and scourge, dedicated to consume and debilitate her husband and sons. "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" — I am.