

I am proud to say that the State of Maryland has begun to assert itself. The 1967 General Assembly by calling for a Constitutional Convention, reforming the State's tax structure, enacting fair housing legislation, and facing up squarely to the most sensitive and strenuous issues of our day, recognized its responsibility to the people and set a record of accomplishment unprecedented in our State's history.

Several factors precipitated this success. Reapportionment, which enabled representation within the State to reflect more accurately the will of the people, perhaps was the single most important factor. Nor can we discount the split in the Democratic Party which allowed new leadership — both Democratic and Republican — to come to power.

For the Republican Party both reapportionment and conflict within the Democratic ranks have provided unprecedented opportunity. An opportunity we must capitalize upon *now* before the memory dims and the moment disappears.

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women has an essential role to play in this effort. A role, not defined by traditional views nor image makers from without the Party. But a role and a commitment for a dedication directed from within your organization. For only *you* know the full capability of your organization and only *you* can assess the full potential of your talents.

I can see six major areas in which all Maryland's Republicans must concentrate, and in each of these, I believe the Federation of Republican Women is uniquely equipped to lead the way.

*One:* A vigorous public relations and public information campaign must be conducted to illuminate exactly what the Maryland Republican Party is and what it stands for — its goals, its ideals and its objectives.

Above all we must drive home the idea that a genuine two-party system is essential to good government.

*Two:* A vigorous registration campaign must be launched to assure that Maryland will have a two-party system on the books as well as in the minds of its citizens. Personal contact will be the key. The Republican Women should develop creative approaches to achieve this end. Neighborhood Republican gatherings can dramatize that a political party, like a social one, is composed of interested and interesting people, sharing compatible views and aspirations.

How many of our neighbors really are registered Democrats because of commitment to the Democratic Party line? How many are registered Democrats in this State for the more natural but unremarkable