

ADDRESS BEFORE THE ALLIED CIVIC GROUP
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

June 14, 1967

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is always a great pleasure to meet with the Allied Civic Group, where the distinguished, articulate and competent leaders of nearly sixty-five local associations join to influence and give direction to Montgomery County's development.

While there may be no precise method to measure your success, it is obvious that your cooperative efforts have brought a new and abundant energy to Montgomery County. In the almost twenty-eight years that the Allied Civic Group has focused its attentions upon the problems of this County, the population has more than tripled and the character of Montgomery County has dynamically changed. The extraordinary progress of the past three decades is an enduring tribute to the interest and dedication of responsible citizens who have voluntarily contributed their time, talent and vision to the community.

The results of this investment of energy and insight abound about you . . . tremendous, well-balanced growth; a fine school system; a superbly professional county government. Montgomery has become one of Maryland's model counties, an example and inspiration throughout the State and nation.

This is not to say you are perfect. Naturally, frustration, impatience and dissatisfaction exist, for you are aware there is still so much more to be done. Master plans once presumed adequate have become obsolete; highways once thought superior have become congested. Yet you must take comfort and pride in these anxieties for they are healthy problems, constructive challenges, positive pains of birth and growth rather than discouraging signs of death and decay.

Confident in your past success, you should take encouragement from the knowledge that experience has provided the key to resolve present problems. An insistence on good administration and proper planning is the keystone to orderly progress. A realization that the essence of growth is flux and movement, and that flexibility is the critical factor to give imaginative solutions is necessary. Above all, the ability to discipline all efforts with the pragmatic, incisive vision that reconciles desire with reality is imperative.