

community, promotes a productive atmosphere for progressive legislation and effective programs.

There is little question that Maryland needs fiscal reform. There is little question that the executive branch of Maryland's State government needs to reevaluate, revise and reform many of its administrative functions and programs. There is *no* question that such reevaluation, revision and reform will make our government more efficient and economical. We must encourage this procedure by employing the soundest thinking of our most creative minds. And, above all, we must generate an atmosphere in which that creativity can flourish. For it is the *attitude* that we bring to our labors that will determine the quality of our accomplishments. It is the way we think that must always determine the way we act. Once we are successful in improving the state of mind, we will surely be successful in improving the State of Maryland.

I speak of a *new* state of mind, my fellow citizens, and if it should be given a name — let us call it the PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE. The PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE does not promise the achievement of perfection — but does pledge the pursuit of it. It provides a discipline and a direction.

It shall be the resolve of this administration to pursue a course of excellence in its exercise of the duties of government. Each program, each statute, each appropriation will be measured to see that it achieves high standards of excellence. It shall be the hallmark of the new administration to exact excellence in program and service . . . through leadership and direction.

But the pursuit of excellence cannot be the goal of the Governor and not the Legislature, nor can it be limited to the considerations of the General Assembly and exclude the private conscience of the individual citizen.

We have seen great decisions of state become mired in the struggles of men to preserve personal power. And we are paying the price. Our cities, our air and our waters reflect the price. And what tax paying citizen will not willingly acknowledge that he, too, is paying the price?

We pay for crime when we pay too little attention to its cures. We pay for pollution when we pay too little attention to its prevention. We pay for overcrowded schools when we fail to build new ones; for slums when we choose to ignore the onset of blight; for desperate and disillusioned human beings when we fail to encourage, educate, house and employ them.