

leadership as well as older, more established leaders. Responsibility is the yardstick.

It shall continue to be my firm policy to do everything possible to provide jobs, good housing and better educational opportunities for the poor and underprivileged, both Negro and white, in Maryland. I will meet with any responsible leaders to discuss the problems that confront us. I will not meet with those who engage in or urge riots and other criminal acts as weapons to obtain power.

In conclusion, I commend the citizens of both races who have continued to conduct themselves with intelligent restraint in spite of great pressure. I share the sorrow of those who have suffered and who continue to suffer from the reckless acts of a few. For the confused and weak who seek to excuse, appease and rationalize for the criminals who threaten our society, I have only pity.

ADDRESS TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

July 31, 1967

These are times when the powers of government as we have known them are being reevaluated and reshaped.

These are times when the enormity of central government is coming to a reckoning with itself and with the citizens of the nation.

These are times when static states are stirring themselves to new intensities of opportunity, action and responsibility.

These are times when local governments, those governments closest to the people, are beginning to truly appreciate and to utilize their unique intimacy with the needs and lives of those they serve.

These are times when governments of all levels and sizes are compelled to reaffirm the spirit that gave our country its democratic form, its vigor, its genius. This is the spirit of individualism that inspires initiative, creativity, and accomplishment.

The United States and its Constitution were conceived to preserve and sustain this spirit and, if some of it today has become lost, we must rediscover it lest we become disciples of a doctrine we did not intend to frame, or citizens of a government we did not intend to form.