

Maryland, of Baltimore and Washington. As each of these areas increasingly develops and prospers, so shall Frederick.

Nor need Frederick depend on the growth of its affluent metropolitan neighbors exclusively, for Frederick claims a unique combination of human and natural resources within its own boundary lines. These assets, properly developed and publicized, are valid and vital reasons for internal growth.

Frederick can afford to stand alone, proud of its independent attributes; but Frederick cannot afford to passively and complacently assume that the prosperity and progress of its metropolitan neighbors must inevitably penetrate its boundaries. This is a hope for tomorrow. Frederick must capitalize upon its immediate and independent potential for progress today!

You, the distinguished, articulate, responsible leaders of the Frederick community, share my concern and my confidence in Frederick's future. You know, even better than I, the great potential of your county. Your participation in the Frederick Rotary, your interest in government and community development, represents and is representative of the new and abundant energy prevailing throughout Frederick County. A great new vitality and excitement have been generated by the realization that Frederick stands on the threshold of great growth, progress and prosperity. Yet this energy must be translated into constructive action and concrete programs if Frederick County is to cross that threshold in this decade.

Today, I want to talk economic development; to show you what the State has done and is doing to create a favorable climate for economic expansion; to discuss in some depth present and proposed programs directed toward helping Frederick across that threshold of promise.

Recent professional studies reveal that the primary incentive to large scale investment is the availability of diversified public services — chiefly education, water, sewage, roads and public safety. Industries are attracted to the communities which offer these services. It is interesting to note that in the list of priorities sought by prospective commercial and industrial developers the relative tax structure of a state was low on the list. Service rather than cost was the critical consideration.

The fiscal reform legislation enacted by the 1967 General Assembly has enabled local governments to maintain and expand these priority