

ure to conserve the beauty of the Potomac, it should also prove a vital economic asset to Maryland's tourist industry.

Tourism and conservation will receive heightened emphasis by the administration in the next year. Exciting plans are under way to publicize and promote Maryland's outstanding historical, recreational and cultural attractions. Frederick — the home of Barbara Fritchie, the burial place of Francis Scott Key, the home of Thomas Johnson — can expect to reap benefits from this concerted effort to win our rightful share of the tourist market.

Conservation of Maryland's most vital, natural resource means the conservation of our waters. The 1967 General Assembly authorized this administration to allocate \$25 million to the counties to subsidize the development of water and sewage facilities. This was *triple* the assistance granted by any previous administration.

This year I shall request the 1968 General Assembly to enact comprehensive pollution abatement legislation. Model statutes to assure that the purity of our waters will conform to established water quality standards; tax incentives for industries willing to install pollution control equipment; regulations to combat irresponsible pollution by pleasure craft; and additional bonding authority so that local governments may curtail pollution resulting from antiquated sewage systems and open-surface run off. This program will be ambitious — even in Agnew dimensions — but the economic implications of neglect are so tremendous and so terrifying that we can justify no less than a one hundred percent effort.

Fiscal reform and revisions to create a favorable commercial climate, vigorous emphasis on Federal relations, energetic campaigns to capture new markets and stringent new programs to preserve precious resources are but the highlights of present and proposed State action to create a dynamic economic environment throughout Maryland.

Major programs have been designed to benefit all counties in general; major policies are directed toward enabling each subdivision to benefit in particular. For the philosophy and, consequently, the emphasis of this administration affirms that the local government — that government closest to the people — is best capable of understanding and fulfilling its citizens' desires, its community's goals, its county's potential. It is the role of the State to assist but not to dictate, to propose but not to impose, to secure the general prerequisites to progress but not to set specific paths for any subdivision's development.

This administration is dedicated to the counties. This spring I traveled to Frederick to convey this interest and concern to your