

The first weight, the measure of any institution or individual, is integrity. This can be tested by commitments kept, faith fulfilled and confidence justified. Last year, when I appeared before this convention, I was a candidate. I presented my position on public education and I indicated some objectives.

What were those pledges? To make every effort:

1. To increase State aid to public schools.
2. To increase the student foundation formula.
3. To raise teachers' salaries.
4. To initiate State aid for public kindergartens.
5. To expand vocational-technical school construction.
6. To provide enrichment and emergency funds for inner city schools.
7. To raise faculty salaries in our State institutions of higher education.
8. To increase State aid to community colleges.

In retrospect, this is an awesome list of goals and you probably thought, "If he means one-third of what he says, if he can deliver one-fourth of what he is going after, we'll all be way ahead of the game." With the objectivity that only nine months in office can bring, I would have to empathize with the skeptical — if any political candidate attempted to deliver that much, I'd be suspicious.

Yet, with the help of Maryland's newly apportioned General Assembly, with the invaluable assistance of its leaders, not only have *all* of these commitments to try been kept — but the objectives have been reached. Briefly let's match pledge with performance:

1. Fiscal reform produced an increase in State aid to public schools *exceeding* \$70 million.
2. The student foundation formula was increased by \$30 per pupil, advancing State aid from \$340 to \$370.
3. Fiscal reform included a provision in the allocation of funds so that every subdivision could raise teacher salary scales.
4. Through fiscal reform almost \$5 million was appropriated for kindergarten construction, over \$12 million to defray current kindergarten operating costs, approximately \$7.9 million to reimburse school systems for kindergartens previously constructed.
5. The 1967 General Assembly authorized a \$10 million bond loan for vocational-technical school construction.