

With a modern Civic Center, first class accommodations, excellent restaurants, diverse cultural and recreational attractions and a wealth of historic landmarks of national significance, Baltimore can now compete with other cities for the travel dollar and the convention business in particular.

I would, however, stress the word *compete*, for the visitor and convention business is a highly competitive one. You will have to meet big league competition from such places as New Orleans, San Francisco and Chicago. But if these cities have found this business worthwhile, then Baltimore should exert whatever effort it takes to play in **that league**.

And Baltimore can do it! The Baltimore Jaycees have proved that they were up to the challenge, when they brought their *National Convention* to the Civic Center this June. The key to success is of course *local action*.

If Maryland is to become a successful host State, the political subdivisions and our citizens will have to do most of the job. If Baltimore is to become a visitor and convention center, city government and the business community will have to strive together to make it so. I believe the citizens of our State — like the Jaycees of Baltimore — are willing to meet the challenge. And, our State government stands ready to cooperate — so that Maryland can campaign and compete and win!

STATE OF THE STATE MESSAGE TO MARYLAND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ANNAPOLIS

January 17, 1968

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

Almost a year has passed since our first official meeting. Even at that early moment, you had my respect; for I knew we shared in spirit high aspirations for Maryland with all the optimism of a new beginning. Today, you have not only my respect, but my admiration and affection, developed from a sense of pride that together we have resisted partisan inclinations in facing the big problems and beginning to reach for their solutions. More importantly, you have earned the respect and approval of the citizens of Maryland as well as interested observers throughout the country, for you have acted with courage and commitment.