

It would seem logical to continue our alliance to people-principle-progress that I spoke of in my inaugural address. It would seem intelligent, even self-serving, to maintain our team pursuit of excellence. Yet we know that some of us will be provoked by appeals to partisan pride and ambition to take actions not in the best interests of the State. Let me say that I will resist these divisive pressures and hope that you will do the same. There will be plenty of opportunity to flex party muscles over minor matters. In addition, the national election will provide an interesting political contest for our vicarious enjoyment.

Today, as we convene again for this report on the state of our State, let us briefly review last year's accomplishments and crystallize some primary objectives for the coming session. I hope these objectives will represent a blend of the best proposals of the administration and the Legislative Council.

Last year, you enabled a Constitutional Convention to be called. It was successful and, with ratification, constitutional reform will be achieved. You enacted fiscal reform providing the means for every subdivision in Maryland to build new schools and to better wage a war against crime. You approved model air pollution legislation and Maryland's first fair housing statute.

Pursuing excellence in conscience, judgment, and deed you have brought Maryland far, but the task is not done. In a single year your record is one of unprecedented accomplishment, and yet we have so much more to do. All that you have done merits acclaim and gratitude; yet we cannot be complacent. We must press forward.

The 1967 General Assembly session was characterized by truly unusual legislative activity and creativity. I am confident that you will build upon this record and in the 1968 session concentrate upon legislation designed to complete and consolidate last year's gains.

Fiscal reform, the single greatest but most misunderstood act of the 1967 General Assembly, still requires refinement. Reform of Maryland's business tax structure must be completed. Revisions are necessary in the motor vehicle revenue and gasoline tax distribution formulae. New revenues are needed to salvage our State's beleaguered highway construction programs.

Fiscal reform was designed to help the subdivisions, and it has fulfilled its objective. Over \$70 million in State aid for public education was provided for local governments. Almost \$16 million addi-