

So here we stand. These are the challenges we must face. And if you think your generation has reaped a bitter inheritance, let me assure you that you are thinking what every generation has thought throughout history. Your parents were heir to a world decimated by war and genocide, a civilization menaced by the atomic bomb. My generation confronted abysmal economic depression and emerged from college or high school to fight a war. The generation before that knew the burdens of disillusionment — they had fought a war “to make the world safe for democracy” only to find they had paved the way for Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini. And so it goes throughout history.

Looking at it from your side, I must admit, when parents throw up their hands in despair at the sight of a new generation long on hair and lean on faith, they are doing no more than parents have done throughout the ages. We must remember this: it restores our perspective and our sense of humor.

Actually, I know your generation is better prepared and, I believe, it is more willing to face the problems of today than any generation in our nation's history. You have benefited from the knowledge explosion, the education explosion, the discipline of having more expected of you by your schools, the greater freedom and mobility of our society. I am confident that you will overcome what one critic of American youth called the Spock-syndrome of permissive behavior and you will not succumb to the A-bomb anxiety which paralyzed rather than galvanized a past generation.

I am certain you will bring fresh vision and vigor to the Democratic process. In fact, I am so confident that I have proposed the formation of the Governor's Youth Council on Human Relations to take a crack at solving some of the State's toughest problems — and have been requested to form another on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. I favor this for two reasons.

First, I believe that Maryland's youth has something constructive to say in analyzing the problems and planning the solutions. I also feel you have something to *do* in the community. I look to my Youth Council for more than armchair expertise; I expect them not only to plan programs but to implement them.

Second, only through total involvement can you know the total story with all its problems. Right now many student leaders in college stand on the sidelines and shout for more government spending without understanding that — in this State at least — the well has