

days ago that amount was decreased by somewhere to the tune of \$35 million. This is a sudden reduction of the magnitude that makes it very doubtful that the proper degree of expertness was exercised by those who were putting those figures together. You can draw your own conclusions about who's at fault.

REMARKS AT GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES FOR OCEAN CITY CONVENTION HALL

(Read by C. Stanley Blair, Secretary of State of Maryland)

June 7, 1968

I regret that I am unable to be here today to participate personally in this historic ceremony and to join in the applause for the many dedicated leaders who have brought reality to the long-dreamed-of Ocean City Convention Hall. Today marks the culmination of a great effort by a community whose dedication translated desire into deed. I send my congratulations to all responsible for this moment. A decade of persistence of thought, energy and imaginative involvement by many individuals has brought us to this ceremony and this is really what we celebrate today.

With the turning of the soil, a multimillion dollar Convention Hall is under way. This symbolizes the success of one great effort and the beginning of an even greater one. This Convention Hall can be the catalyst to change Ocean City into a year-round resort, to make Ocean City a truly national tourist mecca. The Hall can hold a convention crowd numbering 3500. It can serve a banquet dinner to 1500 guests. It can be a concert hall or sports arena. Its potential for attracting new business and enriching community recreation is boundless.

Now as the structure rises, the Ocean City community and its leaders must go to work again. This time, the challenge is using the Convention Hall wisely and well; winning increased convention business and bringing the performing arts and spectator sports to Ocean City.

The State of Maryland wishes you well. We, too, share your interest and your objectives. We, too, are at work planning another bridge to bring your consumer closer. We, too, are confident of Ocean City's future.