

Today we assemble to prepare another attack. This time the target is not limited to our State but embraces our entire nation. This year, we do not plan to campaign, we shall crusade! Republicans, everywhere, are committed to combat for a cause that merits escalation; and in the words of John Paul Jones, "we have just begun to fight!"

Under normal circumstances my remarks today would be confined to the customary compliments on your past work, which you richly deserve, the customary exhortation for your continued efforts and the customary pitch for party unity. But these are not normal times. In the past months our nation and our State have suffered a series of convulsive shocks. The murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, the subsequent senseless rioting, the campus rebellions, and the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy have left America doubting its sanity. The events of the past eleven weeks have had a more profound impact on the American mind than the sum of political consequences over the past eleven years.

In such a time there is no need to appeal for Republican unity or enthusiasm. We have it. We have it here in Maryland and we have it throughout the United States.

The country is in crisis. We face a foreign crisis, a domestic crisis and a moral crisis. That's what the 1968 election will be all about. America stands at a spiritual crossroads, and the outcome of this election could well determine the direction and the destiny of our nation.

At this critical juncture in America's history, the Republican Party stands as a resolute and responsible alternative for *all* who vote their conscience and their principles.

The Republican Party, born in an era of civil crisis and civil war, is prepared to face the truth, the present and the future. We're a party linking a broad spectrum of political views, because we're the party *of and for the individual*. Yet, for all our diversity in particulars, *no party is more firmly united in principles*. We love our nation and stand proud of our unabashed patriotism.

We are the party born in the determination to preserve country and Constitution. We remain steadfast in this commitment.

We appreciate, with an intensity impossible to articulate, the greatness of America's democratic system. We are frankly reverent of the wisdom of our nation's Constitution and frankly appalled by those who would destroy the fabric that binds our nation.