

STATEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND,
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

August 11, 1968

My fellow Marylanders, I would like to report to you tonight on some of the momentous events of the past few days and my plans for the immediate future. I am speaking to you from San Diego, California, where I am meeting with Mr. Nixon and key members of his campaign staff to plan and coordinate our efforts for the forthcoming national election. Although these strategy sessions will continue throughout the week, it is my personal plan to return to Maryland around mid-week for several days to attend to affairs of the Governor's office. I will then return to California to complete the sessions here. My absence from the State is temporary, and this is the sort of pattern that I will attempt to follow throughout the campaign.

To clear up any confusion that may exist about my status as Governor, let me assure you that I will continue to discharge the constitutional and statutory requirements of that office throughout the campaign. I have no intention of resigning, no matter how much that might be desired by some person coveting the office for himself or someone else. In this connection, I will be fulfilling the same sort of role followed by many other national political candidates of the past — including Senators John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Governors Earl Warren and Thomas E. Dewey and, in this present year of dramatic and startling political developments, Governors Nelson Rockefeller, George Romney and Ronald Reagan, as well as Senator Eugene McCarthy.

In this age of jet air travel and instant communication, I am within four hours of our State from any point in the Continental United States. And in daily telephone contact with my office in Annapolis, I will continue to make all of the final decisions of the office of Governor on the basis of information furnished to me by key staff personnel who will man the office in the same manner they would if I were on a vacation or a trip to some other state or country.

The very able Secretary of State of Maryland, C. Stanley Blair, a former member of the Legislature who has been one of my top staff members since I assumed the office of Governor, will function as chief of staff in charge of the day-to-day operations of the office. But Mr. Blair will not be making any policy decisions — he will merely be reporting to me daily to inform, advise and recommend. He will