

what the true situation is? [From audience: 50,000.] Fifty thousand, and I think the last I saw of Maryland we were somewhere in the neighborhood of 19,000 votes behind.

Q. Governor, what do you think your major role is going to be in the Nixon Administration?

A. These things will have to await my conversation in depth with the President-elect, but I would assume the role will be the role he indicated before the campaign started and that would be in the Federal-State-City-County relationship area. And incidentally, I feel very strongly that I want to sit down with governmental leaders at all levels, if this is the task assigned me, at the earliest possible moment to discuss these matters.

MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND

November 7, 1968

Although I am enthusiastic about undertaking the challenge of the Vice Presidency on January 20, 1969, my anticipation is tempered by regret that I must end my days as Governor of this Great State.

The past two years have been the most challenging and gratifying in my life. I am grateful that I have had this opportunity to serve and proud that we have accomplished so much in so short a time.

Yesterday, when I learned of victory, my first thoughts were of the people of Maryland. I want to assure them that the State government will continue to operate smoothly during the period of transition.

We are fully aware of the many complex details involved in a change of administration. Even before the election, my staff began preparing contingent plans for an orderly transition. While the resignation of a Governor to assume the Vice Presidency is without precedent in Maryland, it should be remembered that this transition is, in essence, no different than the conventional changes in administration which have followed gubernatorial elections in the past.

Preparation of the budget and legislative program for the forthcoming year has continued under the supervision of members of my staff and department heads, working in close cooperation with Maryland's legislative leadership. There will be no interruption in the important functions of State government.