

## **HARRY R. HUGHES**

### *Governor of Maryland*

Harry Roe Hughes was inaugurated on January 17, 1979, as the fifty-seventh Governor of the State of Maryland. In the general election of 1978 he received the largest majority of the vote recorded by a Maryland gubernatorial candidate in this century and one of the two largest attained in the entire election history of the State. He swept the State, carrying by substantial majorities Baltimore City and all but two of the twenty-three Maryland counties.

Governor Hughes came to the office of Chief Executive with twenty-two years of experience in State service, sixteen years as a legislator, and six years as a cabinet officer directing one of the State's largest and most complex agencies — the Department of Transportation.

As a legislator Governor Hughes held key positions of leadership and authored much of the significant legislation enacted during the period, particularly in the areas of tax reform and education. As Senate majority leader and as chairman of numerous standing and study committees, he is identified with the important advancements made in the sixties and early seventies in tax revision, in improving fiscal relations between the State and its counties and municipalities, and in increases in State aid for public education. As the State's first Secretary of Transportation he attained national recognition for his role in establishing and operating a department that combined all modes of transportation — a department that served as a model to many other states that were organizing or reorganizing departments of transportation.

Governor Hughes was born in Easton, Maryland, on November 13, 1926. He lived in Denton and was educated in the public schools of Caroline County. As a young man he explored the possibilities of a career in professional baseball after pitching on high school and college teams. Upon graduation from college he played a summer of professional baseball with the farm team of the New York Yankees in Easton and the Federalsburg independent team.

Enlisting at age seventeen, Governor Hughes served a year-and-a-half tour of duty with the U.S. Navy Air Corps in World War II, after which he entered the University of Maryland, receiving a B.S. degree in 1949. Prior to entering the University of Maryland he had attended Mercersburg Academy in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, and

Mount Saint Mary's College in Western Maryland. After receiving his undergraduate degree he entered the George Washington University School of Law, receiving his LL.B. degree in 1952. He was admitted to the practice of law in Maryland the same year and entered the practice in Denton in 1952.

Hughes was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in the election of 1954 and served one term (1955–1958) in that body representing Caroline County. In the election of 1958 he ran for the Senate and was elected. There he spent twelve years (1959–1970), first representing Caroline County, and after reapportionment the Upper Eastern Shore counties. He moved to leadership positions rapidly, serving on the important Legislative Council while a member of the House and later as a Senator.

In 1962 Hughes was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Matters, which at the time played a prominent role in the Legislature's interim fiscal activities. It was that committee that began a series of advancements in State-local fiscal relationships that was to continue over many years and indeed continues today. Out of the report of the Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Matters to the Legislature in 1964 came the first major revision since its establishment in the 1920s of the State's equalization program for public education.

In 1965 Senator Hughes became majority floor leader of the Senate and Chairman of the influential Senate Committee on Finance. It was in this capacity that he directed much of the important legislation that was to be enacted over the next few years.

In 1965 a Commission on State and County Finance, headed by Dr. Paul D. Cooper, submitted a report recommending sweeping changes in State and local taxes and in State and local fiscal relations. The General Assembly that same year adopted a resolution asking for the appointment of a special legislative commission to study and evaluate that report and to make its recommendations to the Legislature at the 1966 session.

Senator Hughes was named Chairman of what came to be called the Special Legislative Commission on State and Local Taxation and Financial Relations. In its report to the Legislature in January 1966, the Commission recommended drastic changes in the tax structure as well as substantial increases in State aid to local governments for education and other purposes. The recommenda-