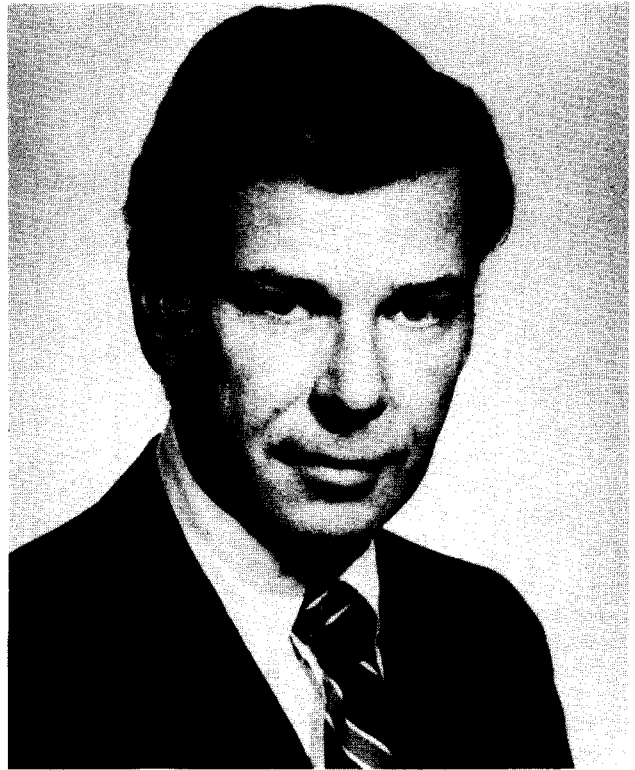


## HARRY HUGHES

*Governor of Maryland*



Harry Roe Hughes was elected fifty-seventh Governor of the State of Maryland in 1978 and was re-elected in 1982. In each of these elections he received more than 700,000 votes, a total unmatched by any other gubernatorial candidate in Maryland history. His 71 percent of the vote in the 1978 election represented the greatest margin of victory by any contender for the governorship in this century. In his 1982 re-election, he received 62 percent of the vote and carried Baltimore City and 19 of the state's 23 counties.

Governor Hughes became chief executive after extensive service in the General Assembly and in the state cabinet. He had served four years as a member of the House of Delegates, twelve as a state senator, and six as Secretary of Transportation. He assumed the governorship at a critical time in Maryland history. Public confidence in the government had been shaken by criminal prosecution of several elected state officials. In addition, as reflected by a survey showing the loss of more than 40,000 manufacturing jobs in the mid-1970s, the state economy had sunk to an advanced stage of deterioration. Governor Hughes pledged to work for restoration of public faith in the political process and to dedicate greater state effort to revitalizing the economy.

Dramatic changes from the past marked his first term. Declaring a belief in the supremacy of principle over personality, he emphasized the role of the General Assembly as the policy-making arm of government and the role of the Governor as that of implementing that policy, initiating proposals on his own and in partnership with legislative leaders, and conscientiously exercising his constitutional budgetary and appointive powers.

Against this background, the first four years of the Hughes Administration brought dramatic improvement in the condition of the state. An aggressive economic development program was launched. Citizens and local governments benefited from the most massive tax relief program ever undertaken by a Maryland governor and legislature. To overhaul a long-neglected corrections system, the biggest prison construction program in state history was initiated.

In addition, nationally recognized programs were adopted for the disposal of low-level nuclear and toxic wastes. One of the most vigorous programs in the nation was enacted to combat drunk driving, significantly reducing loss of life on streets and highways. After several defeats under sponsorship by previous administrations, legislation was adopted to consolidate an antiquated, politics-