

natural recovery of the political and social order. The growth of the Federal government under Roosevelt was noticeably felt by Maryland, particularly in the counties surrounding the nation's capital. From 1930-1940 the population in Montgomery County grew from 49,206 to 83,912 while Prince George's County increased from 60,095 to 89,490. But this growth pales in comparison to the impact World War II had on Maryland's demographics. From 1940 to 1950 the metropolitan counties experienced phenomenal increases: Montgomery went from 83,912 to 164,401; Prince George's from 89,490 to 194,182; Baltimore from 155,825 to 270,273 and Anne Arundel from 68,375 to 117,392. Defense related spending dramatically increased Maryland employment and precipitated an economic boom in the state.⁸ The post-war decade continued Maryland's economic advance, demographic shifts, and unavoidable relationship with the Federal government. For the first time in its history, Baltimore City lost population between a Federal census, declining by over 10,000 from 1950 to 1960, while the rural counties began a resurgence in growth and the metropolitan counties almost doubled again.

After holding its allegiances during the war years, Maryland politics became a battleground itself from 1946 through 1958. Escaping from the politics of personality manifested in Governor Ritchie and President Roosevelt, the Democrats had difficulty in adjusting to the new voter coalitions and its leaders split openly.⁹ On the other hand, the Republicans weathered the Depression and war years with a constituency comparatively unchanged except for the defection of the black vote. And, in the post-war period, it was the Republicans who had the attractive personalities as candidates in President Eisenhower and Theodore McKeldin, the only Republican to ever be twice elected as Governor in Maryland. From 1932-1956, the Democrats controlled the state legislature and many county offices but in the statewide and Federal races this period had two distinct halves in Maryland. From 1932 to 1944 the Democrats carried the four presidential elections, all five senatorial races, 39 out of 42 congressional contests and three of the four governor races. In sharp contrast, was the post-war period of 1946-1956 in which the Republicans carried the three presidential contests, three of the four senate elections, 17 out of 39 congressional races and two of the three governor contests. Economic, social and political upheaval marked this generation in Maryland's history of presidential elections. The major parties had been carried along by events beyond their control; the electorate was aroused and resettled in places, and with issues, far removed from the 1920s. In retrospective, the presidential votes of Marylanders and the nation appear to have been guided by the personalities of the candidates more than the work of the political parties or the issues of the day during this period.

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President Hoover and the Republicans were slow to react to the economic disruption and found neither the legislative resources nor unified public opinion to support their efforts. The Democrats made significant gains in the 1930 congressional