

PREFACE

There is an insatiable human quest for answers to the innumerable whys, whether sparked by curiosity and ambition or sought for understanding and security. This book is a manifestation of that motivation prompted by events, by an innate interest in people and politics and by a belief in the value of history as it was, not as it appears or as it may be remembered.

Searching for the whys in politics is like trying to catch smoke in a net or trying to untangle the strands of a spider's web. What determines a political result—the passage of a law or the winner of an election—is rarely a single factor. Rather, a potpourri of variables combine at a given time and place to produce the events in our political history. Discerning, much less interpreting, the relevant variables in a political moment is a difficult task as politics is an enterprise in which people constantly change their ideas, goals and values in relation to their cultural, economic, physical and social environment.

In the political history of Maryland, I have found the gamut of individual and societal emotion—joy and sorrow, triumph and defeat, love and hate, peace and war, hope and despair, frustration and elation. The political activists and leaders in the self-governing struggle which characterizes our society have been an inspiration for their perseverance, dedication and willingness to sacrifice regardless of the relative success of their respective efforts.

The eligible voters of Maryland have created a unique set of data by their votes in the 49 presidential elections from 1789 through 1980 which may aid in answering questions about our past. A major purpose of *Presidential Elections in Maryland* has been to compile in a single source a comprehensive and reliable factual base from which the pursuit for understanding and knowledge can proceed. In this book there has not been an effort to utilize in any systematic manner the extensive research performed and data collected by social scientists during the most recent decades. There is a need for the continued gathering and subsequent analysis of such information for and about Maryland if we are to benefit from our history in handling the trials and tribulations of the present and in meeting the challenges of the future.

This book would not have been possible without the assistance and cooperation of many others. Dr. Hattery and all of the employees at Lomond Publications, Inc. made extraordinary efforts on my behalf. The reference librarians at Enoch Pratt, Western Maryland College and the Carroll County Public Library along with the staff of the Maryland Hall of Records Commission were particularly helpful in various research tasks. A special mention is owed to Dr. Ethan A. Seidel, Professor of Economics and Business Administration, Western Maryland College, for his statistical and computer knowledge and his willingness to help at any hour. My secretary, Barbara Achziger, who typed and retyped the manuscript, tables and charts, not only has my gratitude for her skills but also for her patience while this book caused havoc with a normal office routine.

Friends and family are undoubtedly relieved this project has finally been completed. While I cannot promise a total reform of procrastination and that other consuming