

In May 1943, when, following four regional conferences, the Council of State Governments established the Interstate Committee on Post-War Reconstruction and Development, Governor O'Connor became its National Chairman, ex-officio.

Breaking a precedent of 35 years' standing the Governors' Conference, at its 35th annual meeting, in Columbus, Ohio, June 20-24, 1943 retained Governor O'Connor as a member of the Executive Committee, and unanimously adopted a resolution expressing appreciation of his "patriotic and faithful service, which has been of such benefit to the Governors of all the States and to the Nation—during one of the most important years in the history of the Governors' Conference." At the 1944 Governors' Conference, he again was named to the Executive Committee.

The Governor has received honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws from the University of Maryland, Loyola College of Baltimore, Villanova College of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University of Washington, D. C. and Washington College at Chestertown. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Maryland State and the Baltimore City Bar Associations; he is also a member of the Elks, Moose, Eagles, Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Phi Kappa Sigma, as well as of other clubs.

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## INAUGURAL ADDRESS

January 11, 1939

Annapolis

*Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the General Assembly of Maryland, of the Court of Appeals, Fellow-Citizens:*

**I**N the presence of members of the General Assembly, of the Judiciary, of State officials, and of such a number of fellow-citizens, it is my pleasure to make known to you at this time, plainly and sincerely, the thoughts, intentions, and aspirations that occupy my mind and heart today as I become the Governor of Maryland. My gratitude to the people who have given me this mandate is both deep and abiding. I am determined to live up to their expectations.

Under the prevailing system of government, our elected officials are chosen by parties but, once chosen, they become servants of all the people. Accordingly, at the very outset, I wish to make it clear that I consider myself the Governor of all the people of the State and that, with the election a thing of the past, I will be guided by what I conceive to be best for Maryland and not by partisan or political considerations. In return, it is my hope to receive cooperation, counsel, and assistance from all interests that place the welfare of the State uppermost. And so, I address myself to all the people of the State, whose future, so far as that future is affected by the State government, is entrusted to our hands.

In this, to me a most solemn hour, I have no inclination to look backward but only to look ahead. I do not intend to criticize or to condemn those who