

responsibility and extraordinary industry in the performance of the serious tasks committed to his care. His culture, integrity and gentility combined to make him the symbol of our best traditions.

The traditions of a people are the essence of the soul of that people at its best. Tradition feeds upon the example and upon the acts, performed by those who forge to the front and by their life and work give added prestige to us all. Truthfully it can be said that Albert C. Ritchie raised the standards of public life in Maryland by force of his character and example as a servant of the State. As Chief Executive of Maryland for 15 years he furnished such an example as to stimulate the pride of, and make a lasting impression upon, the people of his State, and in his later years to impress markedly the people of the entire Nation.

When he ascended to the Governorship, it was at once apparent that the people of Maryland not only had as their Chief Executive a dignified, high class gentleman but one who was given to unremitting labor in the performance of his duties. In addition, the people understood that in their Governor they had chosen one with an intellect of the very highest grade and, with all, the possessor of common sense and honesty of mind, unfortunately, not always found in public life. He proved that a man can be deeply enmeshed in public affairs and maintained unsullied a reputation for fair dealing and integrity as his fundamental qualities.

Appreciating his real worth, the people of this State loved him. They rallied to his support and enthusiastically followed his leadership. This is a proven fact by the honors which the public showered upon him, honors to a degree unparalleled in the State's history. The orderly and systematic machinery which he brought about in the State Government has continued to function with benefit throughout the State. His elimination of undesirable practices and needless offices resulted, in the saving of considerable amounts as one year followed the other. His insistence upon placing in positions of responsibility and trust (for example, the Judicial Branch of the Government) persons of integrity and capability established the proper level although a high one for appointments by Governors of this State.

Governor Ritchie was a statesman whose policies and doctrines were bedrocked in a philosophy which was and is forward-looking yet conservative; he was a true exponent of tolerance and adopted the most sure way of successfully championing the cause. He practiced what he preached. It would be little less than tragic if the life and example of Governor Ritchie did not serve the people of his generation, as well as succeeding generations, for a noble purpose.

The Jeffersonian Club of Frederick County is to be commended for this annual reminder of a great man. Those in public life or those aspiring to public service can well emulate the example and the course of duty charted by this true Marylander. The guide posts which he established as proper directions for the course of ordered government can well be looked to by the disciples of democracy who to their benefit might follow his doctrines.

I welcome the opportunity, therefore, as one who now occupies the position which he graced, of giving public testimony of his worth. The name and fame of Albert C. Ritchie will not be dimmed as years go on, providing sons and daughters of the State to which he gave his best follow his example. His leadership will still be a living thing as long as members of the Party to which