
From the comptroller

Excerpts from Comptroller Schaefer's swearing-in speech

Excerpts from Comptroller Schaefer's swearing-in speech, presented on January 25, 1999, in the House of Delegates Chamber in the Maryland State House.

Four years ago, no one - myself included - thought that I would be standing in this place once again to take the oath of office. When I left the Governor's Office, I thought that was the end of my career in public service, and so did most of you....

And, as I assume this new responsibility, there is one person in particular to whom all of us must be very grateful - our beloved late comptroller, Louis L. Goldstein. Louis has left us a legacy - the most widely recognized Comptroller's Office in the nation. Helping Louis make it possible over the years was a great staff headed by Bobby Swann and Steve Cordi, who I am happy to say will be staying on with me as my two deputies, as will the other members of the management team. No one could have done a better job as comptroller in the past six months and been more cooperative than Bobby has.

As steward for the state, I recognize my responsibility to maintain Maryland's fiscal integrity, keep Maryland's Triple-A bond rating, respect the purpose and the process of spending affordability, be an independent and fair-minded member of the Board of Public Works and other boards, work to improve the business climate, and work to improve our working relationship with other state agencies.

You can also be guaranteed that the Comptroller's Office will maintain the high standards it is known for: making sure tax collection is fair and efficient for everyone, using the latest and best technology, and paying close attention to the needs and concerns of taxpayers, remembering we are in the business of helping people. There will be some changes, but with change, there will also be stability in the Comptroller's Office. Though the office has run exceptionally well in the 20th century, we need

to prepare for the challenges of the 21st century. Status quo is not acceptable, because status quo is moving backward, and we need to continue to move forward.

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I also want to take on some initiatives that may be new to the Comptroller's Office...looking for opportunities to advocate for the business community in Maryland and smaller communities around the state.

The job of comptroller gives me an opportunity to serve the citizens of this state that I care so much for, an opportunity to work to improve the lives of the people of our state, an opportunity to help make this state the best it can be for everyone.

To paraphrase General Douglas MacArthur, old governors never die - they just become comptroller. It's great to be back!

