

stamina to overcome the handicaps created by faltering, ineffective and even foolish Republican administration, and to guide our State and the nation along the paths dictated by experience, by wisdom and by policies unselfish in motive.

My service as Maryland's State Comptroller gave me experience and the opportunity to learn something about state administration in my own and in other states, and to be an interested observer of the impact of national policies and administration on state problems. Developments over the years in communication, in transportation, and in the many other fields, have brought all the people closer, and have created many areas in which the national government and the state governments must cooperate, must work together for the common good.

I am new as a governor, but perhaps it will not be out of order for me to say in the presence of many other state governors, at least one of whom is serving his sixth consecutive term, that the 35 Democratic governors should organize themselves in a group for the study of problems of mutual concern and interests. It would be the aim of this group of governors to help the states to solve their common problems—and to see to it that these solutions bare the imprint and label of the Democratic party. For obviously none of us is facing unique problems. We are all wrestling with the bitter financial squeeze, which is forcing states to choose between raising taxes or cutting down on services which the people need and deserve. We are all faced with rapidly growing populations and with rapidly growing needs for schools, mental hospitals and better roads. We are all faced with the need to attract industry, so as to provide more jobs for our increasing labor force. Yes, all these difficult problems are common to all of us. And just think of it—in 35 of 49 states, the voters decided that these problems should be solved by Democrats! The tremendous vote of confidence in Democrats for state and local office in the last election means to me that the American people not only have voted for each of us individually—they also have voted for all of us together.

We are fortunate in having two great Democratic leaders in the Congress, Sam Rayburn, in the House and Lyndon Johnson in the Senate. They have given the Democratic Party an outstanding record of achievement by the Congress, and they are being requird today, as they have for some time in the past and will be for the next two years, to supply the leadership to completely lacking the in executive branch of the government under the Eisenhower-Nixon Administration.