

I know well the firemen of my State, and I am convinced that they will maintain their pledge to remain tops in the fire service. I regard the reduction of fire loss as one of the finest of services to the public, and it goes without saying that I will offer them every possible service.

In closing, may I express my deepest hope that you will leave this conference with a stronger determination to travel farther and faster down the road of fire safety education. We have come a long way, but as long as we have unwanted fires, there is a long way yet to travel.

ADDRESS, MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OCEAN CITY

June 17, 1959

In all my associations with men and groups of men in a rather long career in public life, none has been more satisfying, more wholesome and more rewarding than my relationship with the firefighters of Maryland. To all of you I should like to say that I appreciate beyond the power of words to say the support you have given me all these years in my various endeavors. I hope that in some way I shall be able to repay you for your kindness.

You may have heard me say this before, but I should like to repeat it nevertheless: That of all the high honors I have received from the people of my State, there is none upon which I place a higher value than that which this organization paid me by electing me as its president. And the friendships I have formed and kept as a member and officer of this association have meant more to me than all the honors I have received.

It was my privilege a few months ago to represent the State of Maryland and to deliver an address at the 1959 Fire Instructors Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. I was accompanied on that trip by Bill Hilgenberg, who as president of the Board of Fire Commissioners in Baltimore, did so much to improve the quality of fire protection in that city. And incidentally—as you no doubt have learned—it was my pleasure after I had returned from that trip to appoint Bill Hilgenberg to the position of Bank Commissioner of the State of Maryland. He will, I am sure, serve with great distinction in that position, just as he has in every other position, public or private, that he has held.

I did what I could in Memphis—and I think I succeeded in my