

per month to the \$135 a month, beginning next January 1. In the budget of the State Department of Health, an item of \$321,621 was approved for supplemental payments for special services in nursing homes. These payments, supplemental to the base welfare grants of \$135, should encourage groups to sponsor nursing homes under the construction program because of the assurance they will have that there will be a reasonably sufficient income to support them.

From all this, it may be seen that the State is taking steps to bring about a balance of facilities by making funds available to low-income groups for the purchase of necessary care. This unique partnership of government and community has served us well in the past, and there is every reason to believe it will serve for the future.

Like most Marylanders, I place a high value on our outstanding private hospital system. We in the State government are eager to see it strengthened and expanded in the best traditions of the voluntary system and are proud to be partners in such a splendid undertaking.

ADDRESS, TOWSON CIVITAN CLUB
IMPROVING THE LOT OF
MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

TOWSON

October 19, 1961

I am most grateful to the Civitan Club of Towson, and the other Civitan Clubs of this district, for this opportunity to come here this evening and speak to you on the subject of Maryland's efforts to improve the lot of the mentally retarded children of our State. I should like, first of all, to offer my personal commendations, and to express the gratitude of all the people of this State to the Civitan Clubs, which under the motto: "Builders of Good Citizenship," have done so much to enhance the lives of our people, and in particular for the generous and effective service they have rendered in the care of the mentally retarded and in supporting scientific research to prevent this affliction.

Only a few short years ago, as all of you here know, the mentally retarded children of our State, and those elsewhere in the country for that matter, were all but a forgotten segment of our population. The progress that has been made since that time, largely as a result of the efforts exerted by Civitan, has been nothing short of remarkable. It was