

for various state and party offices and I know of no one who has earned his spurs in the political arena who would miss this Annual Ocean City Convention of Democratic ladies.

I recall, vividly, attending this convention in the summer of 1961 when the convention headquarters was located at the Atlantic Hotel, only a short boardwalk train ride from where we are now. At the time, I had not yet decided whether or not to seek re-election to a second term as Governor. During the evening of the first day of that convention, thousands of multi-colored flyers appeared in restaurants and hotels along the boardwalk here in Ocean City extolling the virtues and describing the achievements of my first term in office. As a result, many of the women of the party offered me words of encouragement at that time and, not too long afterwards, I did announce my intention of seeking a second term as Governor.

What happened to me in 1961, however, does not merely illustrate an isolated incident. What I am trying to say is that it serves as a reminder to all of the enormous respect and admiration that we feel toward the members of the United Democratic Women's Clubs of Maryland. The success that I enjoyed at the polls in 1958 and, again, in 1962, and the success that our late President Kennedy, President Johnson, Senator Tydings, Senator Brewster and other Democratic candidates have enjoyed here in Maryland is attributable in great measure to the wonderful support that has been so freely and enthusiastically given by the women of our Party.

It is only right and proper, therefore, as I now enter into the twilight hours of my career in public service, that I take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt personal thanks for your gracious assistance to me and to the Democratic Party in campaigns past. We have come a good distance together since those early Gubernatorial campaign days of 1958 and it is my hope, as I know it is yours, that history will judge us well. Perhaps the objective eye of the historian will be better able than our contemporaries to discern and thus evaluate the problems involved in administering the affairs of government in *today's constantly changing modern society*.

Our Democratic administration has endeavored and, I believe, succeeded in providing the needed services and programs for the people and has made Maryland a forerunner of the progressive states while at the same time protecting the financial soundness of our fiscal system. Historians will certainly praise any administration which has been able to provide to many needed services without a major tax increase in eight years.