

you have, by your efforts made a good investment in the future growth and prosperity of Union Bridge.

Maryland is very fortunate in being situated geographically in the center of a great population belt, with the natural resources, the human resources, the lines of communications, the climate and the other factors that are required for industrial and commercial development. With the economic growth that may be expected under these circumstances will come a growing need for the acquisition and development of more parks and recreational areas. I am told by our experts in the Department of Economic Development that potential business investors place educational and recreational opportunities among the first of the requisites to be considered in selecting a community for a business location. They like to know that the families of those they employ will live in a community where there exists an abundance of opportunities to live a health, wholesome, expansive life.

Your State government has recognized its responsibilities in this area and has greatly expanded its program for the development of educational and recreational programs. But if our efforts along these lines are to be successful, the task must be shared at all levels of activity, from federal and State governments down to the communities themselves. In a most satisfying and most commendable manner, you here in Union Bridge have recognized and assumed your responsibility for affirmative action to make your town and community a better place in which to live. By the construction of this building, and the development of these playing fields and areas of recreation, you have created a community asset of incalculable importance to the social, cultural and economic life of the people who have chosen to reside here.

It is a great joy to me, as your Governor, to be able to share with you the pride you have in your accomplishment. It is indeed a happy occasion for all of us. Once again, let me express to all of you my sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality I have received here in Union Bridge today. It was most gracious and considerate of you to invite me to attend these exercises. Finally, let us dedicate these splendid new community facilities to the greater happiness and greater prosperity of the people who live here now and the people who will live here in the years go come.