

age-old condition. And this condition must be ended, not only for the good of Appalachia, but for the welfare of the trading areas that lie east and west of the mountains. Our port of Baltimore, for example, would benefit greatly from increased economic activity in Appalachia — activity which would provide products for export from the port and an interior market for goods and supplies coming into the port.

As Governor of a State which has three counties in the Appalachian region, I can only add my own voice to the call for urgency which has been sounded so clearly by our President. The people who live in the Appalachian area are no strangers to promises. They have stood on their street corners and outside their homes for many a year in the past and listened to the brave promises of well-meaning candidates for political office. All too often these promises have turned to ashes, not because they were insincere, but because, once in office, the former candidate found himself powerless, with the *limited means* at his disposal, to accomplish anything truly meaningful for the people of Appalachia.

No state has the resources to cope with conditions that are as widespread and as economically deep-seated as we find in Appalachia. This is why the present program is so desperately needed. This is also why the people of Appalachia — for the first time — have permitted themselves to believe that at last something effective is really about to be done. I travel frequently in the three Maryland counties in the Appalachian region, and I can assure you that the usual skepticism of the people has been put aside as far as this program is concerned. They have faith in President Johnson and in this Congress. As far as this bill is concerned, they have laid aside their normal protection shield of pride and silence. They have exposed themselves and their plight for all to see. It would indeed be a cruel hoax if we let them down now when their hopes are highest.

Before closing, I would like to quote once more from my address before the first Conference of Appalachian Governors in 1960. Incidentally, I quote from these remarks not because I am fascinated by my own words, but to make the point very clear that this bill represents something which was originated by the Appalachian region itself, and is a true example of cooperation of government at all levels — federal, state and local. We who have portions of our states in the Appalachian region consider this bill to be *our* bill, not a federal government bill. We conceived the regional approach, we formed the pilot organization, and we hammered out the details of