

or no control. It is an undertaking participated in jointly by your federal government, your State government and your local community. It is, of course, too early to test the effect of this joint effort — and particularly the federal government's vast Appalachian regional program, which is only now getting underway — but already there are small but highly significant signs of rejuvenation and rehabilitation. For example, just recently the State Department of Health supplied me with some population figures which I believe have meaning in this regard. As you know, the population of Garrett County declined in the decade 1940-1950 and again in the 1950-1960 census span. But according to the Department of Health, which conducts a continuing census-taking for its own purposes, the county in the first part of this decade has more than regained the population loss it suffered from 1950-1960. This, we believe, is one result of the effort that has been made, by the county and the State, working with federal agencies, to strengthen the economy of Garrett County and bodes well for the future. But let us examine a little more closely our plan for the redevelopment of the area.

In May, 1960, I called a meeting in Annapolis of the governors of the eleven states that comprise the Appalachian region to recommend that a regional effort be made to rehabilitate the economically depressed area. Out of this Conference of Appalachian Governors grew President Kennedy's Appalachian Regional Commission, the Appalachian Regional Plan and the present Appalachian Regional Development Act which the Congress passed and President Johnson signed earlier this year.

In my opening remarks at the Annapolis Conference in 1960, I noted that in the examination of some of the problems of our Western Maryland counties, it became obvious that these problems inevitably were interlocked with economic and social conditions which were common to the entire Appalachian region. In these circumstances, I said it seemed logical to me "that nothing significant could be accomplished for our distressed counties of Maryland except as part of a program whose aim would be to rebuild and revitalize the economy of the entire Appalachian region." I also stated that it was my opinion that we would never arrive at a permanent solution of the problems of the region "unless we stop thinking of the mountains as a 'distressed area' and begin to think of them as an underdeveloped region with vast untapped human and natural resources — a region that can only find its rightful economic level through a plan of overall economic development, programmed for a period of five, ten or even twenty years."