

J. MILLARD TAWES

Governor of Maryland

J. Millard Tawes, the fifty-ninth elected Governor of Maryland was born April 8, 1894, in Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland, a son of James B. and Alice Byrd Tawes. He is married to the former Helen Avalynne Gibson. They have a son, Philip W. Tawes, and a daughter, Mrs. William R. Wilson, Jr., and four grandchildren, the three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Philip W. Tawes and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.

Governor Tawes was educated in the public schools of Somerset County, at the Wilmington Conference Academy in Dover, Delaware, and at the Sadler's, Bryant, and Stratton Business College, where he specialized in the study of banking and accountancy.

Governor Tawes has honorary degrees as follows: the University of Maryland, 1959, (LL.D.); Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland, 1959, (LL.D.); Morgan State College, 1959, (LL.D.); and Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland, (LL.D.).

He began his career in business with lumbering and canning firms founded and owned by his father. He continued this association with his father, and later his brothers, as the family's business enterprises were extended into shipbuilding, baking, and banking.

He was secretary and treasurer of the Crisfield Shipbuilding Company, was vice-president and treasurer of the Tawes Baking Company, was associated in the management of the Tawes-Gibson Lumber Company and the Tawes-Gibson Packing Company, and is a director of the Bank of Crisfield.

The Governor is a Methodist and has been active in church work from his early youth. For many years, he taught the Men's Bible Class at Immanuel Methodist Church in Crisfield, of which he is a member. He was a delegate to the 1952 General Conference of the Methodist Church held in San Francisco and formerly was treasurer of the Wilmington Conference Education Society, Incorporated.

His active career in politics spreads over more than three decades, beginning in 1930 when he was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court for Somerset County. After two terms in this office (1930-38), he was elected Comptroller of the Treasury in his first State-wide election campaign in 1938. In 1942 he ran again without opposition in the primary and won a second four-year term in the general election.

These eight years were the first part of an interrupted career of seventeen years in the office of State Comptroller. During that period, due to the growth in population and the broad expansion of State activities, the office personnel increased from one hundred to five hundred employees.

In May, 1947, Governor Lane appointed him State Bank Commissioner, a position he held until he was appointed State Comptroller on July 5, 1950, to fill the unexpired term of the late James J. Lacy. He was re-elected Comptroller, without primary or Republican opposition, in 1950 and again in 1954.