

ADDRESS, MARYLAND HIGHWAYS  
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

BALTIMORE

February 15, 1965

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today. I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to address this distinguished assemblage because it is you who represent that segment of our State's industry which is responsible for our magnificent highway system. And it is that system which has been responsible, in large measure, for the fantastic growth now being experienced every year within the borders of our great Free State.

There is no single word which typifies the American—and the Maryland—image more than the word strength. It took strong minds, filled with imagination and vision, to build this country into the world power it is today, with the highest standard of living ever known to man. It took strong bodies and wills to clear the path from the first landings in Jamestown in 1607, to the Pacific Ocean. Nowhere has this will to build, this burning desire to create, this realization of duty been more apparent than in our own Maryland in the past few years.

Today we are maintaining our strength and are, in fact adding to it in order to keep abreast in this highly competitive world. Utilizing the great democratic process, the partnership of the people, their government, and industry have combined to make Maryland the second fastest growing State on the Eastern Seaboard. Our urban areas are expanding at a fantastic rate. The present population of the Baltimore metropolitan area is 1.5 million. By the year 1980, it is expected this figure will double. In the Washington metropolitan area, that year will see a population of some 6 million. In fact, the entire Baltimore-Washington corridor will have grown to a total of 10 million human souls. Similar expansion is now being experienced in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore.

It is to Maryland's credit that our economy is keeping abreast of this great population explosion. Assisted by the recent federal tax measures, our Gross State Product is expanding at a rate almost twice that of the national average. And gentlemen, as this expansion continues, the need for more of everything—more steel, more food, more fuel, more homes, apartments and shopping centers increases daily. These are the challenges of growth. Whether we continue to meet these challenges depends primarily on whether we can meet another challenge—the challenge of mobility.