

highways with squalor and unsightliness not only offends the esthetic senses of the people, but it jeopardizes their welfare by deflating property values and even menaces their safety as they travel. Polluted air and polluted water are not only an offense to our sensibilities, but they are a threat to our good health. The lack of urban and suburban planning and zoning, with the consequent ugliness that comes inevitably with unplanned growth and development, is one of the most destructive elements of our modern society. And so beauty, although beauty is an end in itself, also affects our lives in other ways. It behooves us to work to achieve beauty in every way possible — to create it where it does not exist, to protect it and conserve it where it does exist. This then is the broad objective of this Commission, and the people of Maryland are deeply indebted to all of you who are here for the fine public interest you are showing in a matter of so great importance to our State and its people.

With our majestic mountains, the charming tidewater area, the lovely hills and plains in between, Maryland has been abundantly blessed by our Creator with the beauties of nature. Captain John Smith in his journal called our area a “delightful land,” and it is that indeed. I am sorry to say we have not always done all that we could or should to preserve this “delightfulness”. Certainly with the gifts from Heaven that we enjoy we should do everything within the realm of the possible to preserve all that is beautiful in our State.

With regard to water pollution, President Johnson had this to say as he signed last year the Water Quality Act: “The clear, fresh waters that were our national heritage have become dumping grounds for garbage and filth. They poison our fish, they breed disease, they despoil our landscapes . . .” adding that “This sort of carelessness and selfishness simply ought to be stopped; and more, it just must be reversed. And we are going to reverse it.”

Certainly we in Maryland know something about the pollution of our streams. Rivers and estuaries that only a few years ago were immaculately clean and abounded in fish and other marine resources today have become barren of marine life and unfit for many types of recreational use. For years the waters of our State have cried for our protection, and unless we face the fact that they are not to be used for sewers they will be despoiled for generations to come. And so, we must resolve, with President Johnson, that this kind of carelessness and this kind of selfishness must be stopped.

With regard to air pollution, I saw a statement the other day to the effect that we spend in this country ten times as much for per-