

records at the polls on November 6, I do not feel it is necessary for me to lecture you on that subject. Regarding the phrase that "*politics is the art of the possible*," I, of course, can lay no claim to having coined it, nor do I have any monopoly on its use. As one with some experience in political affairs, however, I do subscribe to the doctrine, and I would expect that during the next four years you and I, working together on some of the tough problems of State government, will have an opportunity to become better acquainted with the delicate art of the possible.

Our purpose in inviting you to come here today was to offer you any information we may possess that will assist you in discharging the heavy responsibilities you bear as representatives of your counties and your legislative districts in the lawmaking branch of our State government. To put it another way, we are here to offer you guidance in the elementary procedures and practices of legislative bodies and in no sense to give you direction as to the course you are to take as the duly elected legislative representatives of the people.

When you return here on January 2 to begin your duties, you will be called upon to face many burdensome tasks and to shoulder many heavy responsibilities. You and I—I as chief executive and you as lawmakers—have received a grave mandate from the people of Maryland—a mandate to carry on the government of this State as skillfully as possible, as effectively as possible, as economically as possible for the next four years.

In many respects, the first legislative session is the most important legislative session of a term. It is the session at which we may be expected to lay the groundwork for carrying out our mandate. And so, what we accomplish, or fail to accomplish, in these halls from January 2 through the end of the session in all probability will be reflected throughout our term. You will be called upon during this first session to make decisions on many issues vitally affecting the lives of the people of this State. As your Governor, I am now formulating a legislative program which I shall ask you to support—a program which I shall outline to you in appearances before your two bodies.

Of paramount importance at every session of the General Assembly is the State budget—the plan for financing all State programs and all State institutions over a one-year period. It is my constitutional obligation, as chief executive of the State, to prepare in detail this budget and present it to you for your final approval. It is your constitutional obligation to scrutinize this document and make whatever alterations or recommendations you deem fit.