

The New Year's resolution is the product of this kind of contemplation, and the New Year's resolution can be a most valuable instrument in enabling us to plan an orderly life. New Year's Day is also a time of thanksgiving — of rendering our thanks to the Almighty for his mercies and his favors.

As we look back upon the year 1962 and face the year 1963, we Marylanders see many things for which we can be grateful. In the first place, in common with all other Americans we rejoice that our nation has enjoyed another year of peace, and although we are living in a perilous age in which almost anything can happen, we can see that the outlook is bright for continued peace and we rejoice that this is so. With other Americans also, we are thankful for another year of economic prosperity — a year in which Americans for the most part were able to derive a full measure of the enjoyment of life as a result of an abundance of goods and services to supply their material wants. Our great State of Maryland has been exceptionally fortunate in this respect, having experienced its best year economically speaking. For the first time in history, we in Maryland are producing goods and services at the rate of \$9 billion a year. For all of this, we Marylanders of course are most grateful.

As I have done in years past on this "Annapolis Index," I will attempt just briefly to review some of the activities of your State government during 1962 and recite some of the "resolutions" we have made for the years immediately ahead. Sound and responsible government financing has been the keystone in my Administration, and I am pleased to report to you again this year that Maryland has never been in a stronger financial condition than it is today.

As I complete the fourth and final year of my first term, I feel a sense of satisfaction in the fact that we have been able to finance the State without the necessity of imposing new taxes. Furthermore, it is satisfying to be able to report that the budget I am now preparing for the forthcoming fiscal year contains no additional taxes. All this we have been able to accomplish by prudent management of your State's finances, under a policy that calls for strict economy of operations, providing at the same time the expansions and improvements that are required for a progressive and rapidly growing State.

But let us move on with our review of activities for the year. Our "go roads" program has moved along steadily, and again in 1962 we built more miles of highway than ever before in history. In the year ending, we completed the Baltimore Beltway, opened the Jones Falls Expressway, opened up new arteries in the Washington metropolitan