

I will spare you the details, but I remained clerk of court until 1938, when I made my first try for state-wide office by becoming a candidate for State Comptroller and winning. Four years later I ran for reelection without opposition either in the primary or the general election. At the completion of my second four-year term as Comptroller, I made the decision to enter the Democratic primary as a candidate for Governor. In a three-way race with William Preston Lane, Jr., and Streett Baldwin, Lane won and went on to become Governor of the State. In May following his inauguration, Governor Lane appointed me Bank Commissioner. Three years later, I again took over the office of State Comptroller by appointment of Governor Lane following the death of James J. Lacy. I remained Comptroller until 1958, when the good people of Maryland elected me as their chief executive, a position which I have held since.

The years which I have spent as Governor of the State have been years of unparalleled growth, of vast economic development, of considerable social upheaval. Thus, they have been difficult and challenging years. The population explosion, about which we hear so much, has created unprecedented demands for more public schools, colleges and universities, for more highways, for broader and more intensified programs of public health and mental hygiene, for an almost limitless variety of new or expanded governmental services.

Let me cite just one example. A few days ago you may have read that Dr. Wilson Elkins, the President of the University of Maryland, said that by 1968 we may expect an enrollment at the College Park campus of the University of 30,000, whereas, we had hoped to limit the total enrollment there to 25,000. This, as I have indicated, is but one example of the rapid growth that we see all about us in just about every aspect of our daily living. Moreover, Maryland is experiencing — with the rest of the country and to a greater degree in many instances — the effects of the great social upheaval that has occurred as a result of the great scientific and technological advancements which we have made and are making. An era of automation and computers has confronted us with problems which we have never faced before. While I have confidence that we will meet the challenges, I know that the years ahead will be difficult ones, for those of us in public office and for the citizenry in general.

I, of course, expect to retire from the public service at the end of my term as Governor of the State. I am, as I have said, humbly grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve the people of my State. I am happy to have been privileged to hold so high an office in such crucial