

the most significant lesson of the past that can be appropriately applied to the future.

States and nations always are involved in revolutions — primarily revolutions in thought. It is imperative, therefore, that you be prepared for this. I doubt if anyone can honestly declare that he is protecting the American ideal, that it is consistent with the traditions of this State and nation to reject new ideas, to discard new proposals, simply because they do not fit an established pattern determined to be proper by those who would seek to mould our thinking. Perhaps this is the reason it is such a delight to address the youth of this State and nation. No other group is more receptive to change, no other group is more free of the prejudices that all of us inevitably accumulate during our journey through life.

There are broad horizons facing each and every one of you in this chamber and, as a man certainly entering the twilight of a long career in public service, I am going to risk being presumptuous and offer some suggestions that may make your journey a bit easier. In coping with the problems that will affect this State and nation in the years to come, your major assets will be understanding, knowledge and a sense of responsibility. As young citizens of Maryland, you will often be criticized for being impetuous. For the most part, this criticism will be valid and ought not be dismissed lightly. It is almost axiomatic that young citizens tend to be liberal-minded in thinking and rash in action and that they tend to modify both as they advance in years. An understanding of this, then, will lead you to seek a long range view of ideas and projects that, while initially attractive, may harbor dire consequences if put into effect. This is not easy to do for it requires a determination to resist the pressures of the present for the welfare of the future. It is wise, then, to examine all points of view before arriving at a decision. Those who disagree with you may not like your decisions but they will certainly respect you for the manner in which you made it.

As to the second asset — knowledge — one need only examine the problems that have been raised in this country because of school drop-outs to understand its significance. If there is one thing I can assure you of today, it is the fact that the problems of government are not going to become easier to solve. Government, whether it be at the national, state, or local level, is becoming increasingly complex because the problems of each no longer are separate but inter-related. No one individual is capable of possessing all the knowledge of governmental affairs to permit him to arrive at a solution without