

Good Man to Lead

It speaks well for Governor Tawes's personal accomplishments, and for Maryland's recent history, that the sixteen other state leaders meeting at Sea Island in the Southern Governors Conference have chosen Mr. Tawes as chairman for the coming year. This is no idle honor. It is true that Mr. Tawes, who is the country's senior chief state executive in age, might have been chosen on that basis. It is true also that this group of governors has no great force, as an organization, and that it ordinarily exhibits little cohesion.

But these are not ordinary times, and the seventeen Southern and border states represented at Sea Island share, if in differing degrees, one pressing problem. As Governor Harrison of Virginia, chairman of the nominating committee, expressed it:

"We needed someone this year who would represent a changing South—a South we hope is putting racism behind it. A Governor from Maryland, where the schools are integrated and where Negroes have been free to vote for generations, is a good man to lead us at this stage of the game."

Mr. Tawes knows, as do all other citizens of Maryland, that we have not by any means solved all our problems of the races, but it is fair to claim that he has tried, and we have tried, and that the record is far better than it might have been. The recognition granted the Governor by his colleagues is a challenge to make it better still.