

HIGHLAND BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HIGHLAND BEACH, MD.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

December 26, 1931.

Hon. Albert C. Ritchie, Governor,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Highland Beach Civic Association who supported you and your cabinet so energetically during the last campaign. I wish to assure you as its president that after a recent canvass of our voters, they are again prepared to give to you the same undivided support in the coming campaign if necessary.

Unfortunately and untimely as the present Eastern Shore crisis may be after a little check up of some leaders of our group, we do not agree with some of your critics that this will greatly effect the colored vote of the state that in recent years has grown and supported you as governor, for we believe that your quiet, lawful, systematic and thorough methods will cause more of the better element of our group to follow your standard than ever before.

We who have established our homes only a short distance from yours, desire at this time to express to you our feeling for the great pleasure you have in the past given the poor children of our county. We wish also to thank you for your wonderful support of negro education within the state and also for your wonderful "Bigheartedness" toward the many of our race who through ignorance, lack of educational advantages, home training, and wholesome environment have fallen victims to crime, and landed in our penal institutions.

It is not the occasion that makes the man, but how he arises to meet it. And your methods to date are all that a safe and sane body could wish.

We do not ask for any statement from you on the past situation! we will not embarrass you in any way by publicity of any kind for we realize more than anyone else the delicate situation this event has caused and the probable effect upon your future career; and more deeply than ever we appreciate the great advise of that great champion of Democratic Principles--Thomas Jefferson who when approached by a fanatic for a public statement on a subject that had given his whole soul and support and which he was quietly working out, replied, "My friend, a statement from me at this time would not be wise; more good causes are lost by the over enthusiasm of their friends than by the power of their enemies."

In this little declaration of confidence and loyalty to rally and fight under your banner, we feel that while scheming politicians, who continue to follow the pathway trod by their political ancestors, are trying to seek opportunities to embarrass you, and beset your pathway with seeming difficulties, we, as