

Quid Est Veritas

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Translation: Those states that have the ability to generate well paying jobs will do far better economically than those that stake their future on wage slave operations like Wal-Mart.

The key to this equation is Baltimore. Our next governor must resist the impulse to blame all of Maryland's ills on our state's largest and most important city. Instead he (or she) would do well to focus instead on the city's potential and work to meld the robust economic forces of the Washington suburbs with world-class facilities like the Port of Baltimore and Johns Hopkins Medical Center.

The goal in the end would be the creation of an unbeatable symbiotic relationship that would have the potential to fuel and sustain the economies of both regions. Montgomery County offers high-tech and advanced bio-medical industries. Baltimore offers a state of the art airport and seaport. Together these two regions could lead the way in answering many future questions of concern to us all. Questions such as where is the next generation going to live? Where are they going to work?

Baltimore City, at present, is undergoing a renaissance, but due to crime and urban blight it has a long way to go. We have two choices: We can let the region devolve into an east coast version of Detroit where people only travel to the city during day light hours or to attend sporting events. Or,

we can give the city the support it needs to reduce crime and promote conditions that can create affordable housing and well-paying jobs for nurses, policemen, teachers, fireman and millions of other middle class Marylanders who seek the American dream. Maryland has often been referred to as America in miniature.

Like our nation, our goal should be to construct an environment where the industrial and intellectual areas of our state compliment one another.

These challenges call for someone who has experience in both of these worlds and an understanding of the uniqueness of each region. With this knowledge, the new governor will have the required insights to motivate the leaders of Baltimore and Montgomery County to work together for the common good.

Playing one region against the other will only play into the hands of our friends across the Potomac, who are always ready to undercut our efforts to secure our state's economic future. In short, like Greece in the 5th Century, we should refrain from fighting over whether Athens or Sparta is the better city-state and keep our eye on the Persians.

November 2006 is now less than a year away, but I am betting the winner of the next gubernatorial election will be someone who is less inclined to badmouth Charm City and more adept at, as Richard Nixon used to say, "Bringing us together."