

The British statesman went a step further to state that not only our happiness as a people but our strength as an organized society is dependent upon the health of the people.

That the health of the people is a public responsibility is a proposition that is accepted today in all civilized states. In our country, all levels of government, federal, state and local, accept the principle stated by Disraeli that the health of the people determines the happiness and the strength of a nation.

I can tell you something about the recognition of the principle by your State government. Since I was inaugurated as Governor on January 14, 1959, I have prepared two budgets for the operation of your State government. In each, I have stressed the importance of economy in the expenditure of the taxpayers' money. And yet, in neither have I suggested that we economize at the expense of such vitally-needed programs as education, health and welfare. For example, the budget we adopted this year for the operation of the State during the fiscal year which begins next July 1 calls for a general-fund increase of \$28 million. Of this amount, nearly \$13 million represents the increase we allowed for educational and related purposes. To improve the health of the people, we decided to allot for health and hospitals nearly \$4.5 million more than we appropriated for the previous year. This was 17.5 per cent of the total budget increase. To complete the overall picture of public health, we should add to that the more than \$1 million increase we allotted for mental hygiene.

Consequently, we are spending in the forthcoming fiscal year in our State government nearly \$6 million more than was appropriated this year for the good health of our citizens, knowing that the absence of good health will produce unhappiness among the people and reduce our effectiveness as a State and a nation . . . .

By the establishment of this medical center, the mayor, the town council and the people of Hurlock have acknowledged a public responsibility for the health of the community. Your action demonstrates your belief in the proposition that the health of the people is the foundation of their happiness and their power. As your Governor, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the individuals and to the organized groups whose unselfish and unyielding efforts produced this fine community project. To Dr. Jason Yee and to his nurse, Mrs. Evelyn Harper, may I say that I join with the people of Hurlock and of the northern area of Dorchester County in an expression of gratitude for the work you have done in curing the sick and healing the wounded . . . . I give hearty