

He spoke of the development of an educational system under which every American child may have the best education that we can provide. He described an America that is concerned with the plight of the poor and the elderly and demands equality of opportunity for all of its citizens. He envisioned a society in which the people are healthy and which matches its achievements in medicine with the afflictions of the people. And for educated and healthy Americans, he would have them living in surroundings "in harmony with their hopes." Such a society embodies the hopes and the dreams of Americans, and I believe most of us are confident that the goals our President has established are attainable in our time.

In any event, I think most Marylanders would demand of us that we pursue the course our national Leader has set. And so, I would suggest that we — here and now — make our moves in a direction that will lead us to these objectives. On our lower plane, and within our limited scope, the State of Maryland can do much to bring to fulfillment these bold and noble aspirations. I am submitting for your consideration at this session a program which, in a broad way, envisions these objectives: a free people, a healthy people, an enlighten people, a prosperous people, a happy people. I am no Utopian, and realize that perfect freedom, perfect health, perfect enlightenment, perfect prosperity and perfect happiness are beyond our grasp. But at least we can march in that direction, and, for my part, this I am determined we shall do.

THE BUDGET

As you know, we have a two-fold purpose at this session:

1. To set a policy and adopt a program for the financial operation of our State Government for the fiscal year which begins next July 1.
2. To enact such laws as will, in the words of the Declaration of Rights of our Maryland Constitution, bring about "the general melioration of the condition of the people."

The budget you received yesterday in all its detail, and therefore in this message I shall discuss only what I consider to be its salient points. The budget shows that our main effort is being directed toward the essential services of education, health and welfare — services which affect directly the lives of the people. Of the general funds allotted, 52.9 per cent goes for public education, including appropriations for public higher education. Another 20.5 per cent is allotted