

There are mandatory increases in State and Education retirement systems, and statutory increases in State aid to the subdivisions, but additional funds are being recommended only where absolutely essential.

The Department of Social Services budget has been increased \$6.5 million to accommodate an anticipated expansion in the Aid to Families With Dependent Children caseload. The Mental Hygiene budget has been raised \$5.3 million to finance the employment of additional staff for new facilities opening at Crownsville, the Eastern Shore State Hospital, Rosewood, Springfield, and the long awaited Metropolitan Washington Retardation Center, which is scheduled to open in March of 1970.

The University of Maryland and the State College system budgets have been increased by \$9.9 million, mostly for faculty salaries. The balance of the recommended increases are mainly allocated to the Comptroller of the Treasury and the Departments of Juvenile Services, Correction and Health.

I am passing on a clean slate with every option open. This fulfills a vital obligation on my part — a responsibility not to burden my successor with debts nor dictate policy. The new Governor is free to be his own man, to establish new directions and new policies for Maryland. This is his right and his responsibility.

Let me say that it is not an absence of interest that motivates my restraint, for the very opposite is true. It is my high regard for the Office of Governor and my overwhelming respect for the right of leadership this office confers. I have kept my peace so the new Governor may have every opportunity to lead, unfettered by decisions not of his making.

Finally, I would like to point to the Governor's *Operating Economy Survey* as a newly launched project of tremendous promise. This effort to economize by using new management techniques is entirely financed by the private sector. Maryland's leading businesses and industries are lending their best minds to the effort. The resulting voluntary partnership is good citizenship of the highest order. It should produce savings of millions to our taxpayers.

Now it is time to reflect on the one great failure — the failure of Maryland's proposed Constitution. The absence of a modern constitution becomes most glaring on this day when the process of succession must be determined by procedures set over a century ago.