

NEWS CONFERENCE

January 10, 1967

Opening Statement by the Governor-Elect

There have been recent news accounts that the proposed budget for the Governor's office will double next year. These accounts are correct and I would like to explain to you at this first press conference some of the reasoning behind this increase.

Shortly after my election, when I started to organize a personal staff, it became immediately apparent that there were certain weaknesses in the structure of the management of the executive branch of government. I opened discussions with the Curlett Commission, which was also aware of the problem from the studies it had made since the Commission was appointed by Governor Tawes last spring to study the modernization of State government. Most of you are familiar with the makeup of this Commission of distinguished citizens which is headed by Mr. John N. Curlett of Baltimore. It has a broad representation among the various interests of our State.

It was pointed out to me by the Curlett Commission that there are now 240 units of the State government directly responsible to the Governor. And it is physically impossible for one man operating with the presently limited staff to effectively coordinate their activities. Not only must I be aware of the problems, but I must have sufficient information to guide the operations in the best interest of the people of all the State. It was the thinking of the Curlett Commission that there should be established in the Governor's office 6 to 12 program executives assigned to coordinate all programs in the major areas of State government. I agree to establish the minimum number, 6, in the budget now being prepared to submit to the General Assembly.

These positions are to be held by well qualified individuals who will serve at the pleasure of the Governor and who will strengthen his direction and control. They will serve the dual function of keeping the Governor informed of problems and programs as well as apprising the various State departments of the Governor's needs, attitudes and decisions.

The first of these appointees is Mr. B. Melvin Cole who will specialize in the area of education and who is extremely well qualified