

I quote the following few lines from my inaugural address of two years ago to indicate that truths do not change:

"Let us, together, so arrange the affairs of the great State of Maryland that never again will we need take second place in the Union. Let party considerations be ignored while we, as fellow citizens, become interested in the continued progress of our State along every forward-looking line."

With such an invitation I close, assuring the members of this General Assembly that my every purpose is to cooperate with you for the betterment of the public good.

With full expectation that your membership is as informed as I of the serious tasks which lie ahead in this eventful period of the world's history and with confidence that you are capable and disposed to discharge your part efficiently and conscientiously, I express pleasure at your convening and wish you every success in your important undertaking.

BUDGET MESSAGE
TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND

State House, January 7, 1941

Annapolis

THE Constitution of Maryland prescribes the manner in which the Governor should submit to the General Assembly the State Budget and the financial plan for the next biennium.

In conformity with these provisions I herewith present for your consideration the proposed Budget showing the revenues and expenditures for the preceding two fiscal years, current assets, liabilities, revenues and surplus as of the beginning of the current fiscal year, the debts and funds of the State, an estimate of the revenues and disbursements for the next two years and the estimated surplus as of September 30th, 1943.

Because the General Assembly of 1939 met fairly and honestly the financial problems confronting the State at that time, I am gratified to report to you that the State's fiscal position is, at the present time, sounder than it has ever been before. The legislation passed at your last Session, pertaining to the revenues of the State, made it possible to abandon the unsound financing which obtained during the several years preceding your last meeting. The diversion of highway revenue was stopped, with the result that all available road funds are now being spent on the roads and streets in the State. An adequate working fund has been provided to finance the operations of the State Government. No bonds have been issued to balance the budget.

This very gratifying situation has been made possible because of your willingness two years ago to meet the problem confronting the State Government in a highly intelligent and cooperative manner.

The strong financial condition of the State is also indicated by the high regard in which the bonds of the State are held by investors. The last issue of bonds, sold in August 1940, brought a price of \$101.49 at an interest rate of 1½%.