

circumstances that were none too favorable. When and as economic conditions improve, and as refinements are made in legislation now upon the statute books of the land, this bugaboo of old age dependency will vanish from this Country, and take its place in the museums of historical relics, along with the twelve-hour working day, child labor and the like.

All these, however, are considerations that affect the Nation as a whole. What about those phases of government that apply directly to our own State? What can our State Administration do to improve them, and to keep step with the most progressive accomplishments of the other leaders among our commonwealths?

In answer to those questions, let it be said here that, come what may, war or further economic readjustment, Maryland has embarked upon, and registered important progress along, ways that lead to financial stabilization. We have "Set our house in order," an initial step without which there can be no hope for sound progress.

By this I mean that a number of things have been done that make for sound administration of your affairs—things that were not being done when this Administration was called upon to take over the reins of government in the State. There was little fanfare connected with these achievements, they were not the type of deeds that lent themselves to wide publicity, or that would appeal in a striking way to the great numbers of our citizens. Yet I say to you that the results of these accomplishments will be felt by all the people of Maryland throughout the years to come.

What was it, then, that was done that will exert such an influence upon the affairs of our State in years to come? Well, first of all, the State has begun again to do what every sound business man among you demands of your own organization—namely, to live in the present rather than in the future, and to order its financial affairs so that we Marylanders of this age and generation will pay our own way rather than inflict the costs of our government expenditures upon those to come after us. It has been decided, as a definite policy that we would not spend monies unless there was assurance of income to take care of these expenditures. It was decided to stop borrowing to pay current expenses.

The sorry condition into which our State roads had gotten brought a further decision to stop, once and for all, the vicious practice of diverting to other purposes gasoline tax monies that had been paid by motorists with the expectation that they would be spent on roads. Provision has been made that the bonded indebtedness of the State, which had been climbing steadily upward, should be started on the downward path again. And, yet, withal, by scrutinizing carefully, and eliminating those that were not in the "essential" class, it was possible to provide much-needed monies for welfare work, and for increased and badly needed facilities for our poor and unfortunate, our sick and our orphans.

How important these accomplishments are will be evidenced clearly, if I am not mistaken, when the enormous costs of National Preparedness efforts begin to appear in the form of increased Federal taxes. That, of course, will have to come. It is unavoidable. And, even though it will be unpleasant in high degree, it will be infinitely preferable to the state of the people of France and Poland and other German occupied and dominated countries.

When that time comes, I believe the people of Maryland will find great