

in our educational system at all levels—from elementary school to university. For the Department of Education, I have recommended an increase in general funds of \$17,427,491, which is offset by a net decrease in special and Federal funds of \$9,537,835, resulting in a net total increase of \$7,889,656. You may note that of the general fund increase, \$16,918,904, or 97.08 per cent, is in items mandatory under public school laws enacted by this General Assembly. For its operation, the University of Maryland has been granted an increase of \$2,429,578 in general, special and Federal funds. Comparable increases are recommended for Morgan State College and the five teachers colleges.

We have discussed up to now money for the operation of departments and agencies. The full measure of our financial undertaking can be grasped, however, only if we view these operational budgets together with our program of improvements financed by loan funds. Planning is desirable in all areas of government, but in my opinion, it is indispensable in the field of capital improvements. Having been Governor for such a short time, it would be presumptuous on my part to intrude at this time in a program of public improvements which has been planned over a period of years. And so, for the capital budget I have adopted the program recommended by our State Planning Commission for a capital outlay of \$13,922,300.

Highlights in this program are \$1,000,000 for the initial acquisition of land for the establishment of the Gunpowder River Valley Park system, \$2,179,300 for continuing improvements of our mental institutions, \$1,201,300 to provide the institutional needs of delinquent children in the State and \$2,215,000 to begin a long-range program of improvements in our correctional system. The Gunpowder River park project is vitally needed to conserve open spaces in a rapidly growing metropolitan region.

Overcrowding in our mental hospitals is a matter of grave concern to all of us, and I offer wholehearted endorsement of this building program. The money we plan to spend will provide a 100-bed Active Treatment Building for males at Spring Grove, which is a stage in the abandonment of Old Centre Building; the renovation of "C" Building at Crownsville, making it available for general patient housing; equipment for the Geriatrics Building at Eastern Shore Hospital and for a building for emotionally disturbed children at Rosewood; projects to improve services and provide better fire protection at Springfield and Rosewood, and a number of other facilities. It is noteworthy that these projects, when completed, will provide more than 450 additional beds in the mental hospitals.