

certain restrictions in our highway law which are delaying construction of vitally needed roads. The proposed revision of the law will permit an immediate start of construction that will result in the completion of a continuous network of modern major highways serving every region of Maryland by the end of 1965. The proposal also envisions critically needed improvements to secondary roads. It is my sincere belief that this measure will provide the greatest good for the greatest number of Marylanders, will make the most intelligent use of the money remaining in the Twelve-Year-Program fund and will bring good arterial roads five to ten years closer to reality. I urge, therefore, that you give this important legislation your approval.

I am pleased to report that the Department of Economic Development, established by Legislation you passed last year to encourage the expansion of new business and industry in the State, is off to an excellent start. The department has been organized, has a new director and already is hard at work accumulating and organizing the material it will use to persuade business and industry to take advantage of the many opportunities they will find in our State. I have requested that the budget of the Department be increased by \$100,000 next year to provide for a sound development of staff, program and information for its first full year of operation.

Working closely with this new agency toward certain common objectives is the reorganized Planning Department, which has been operating in its new status since last July 1. The most modern concept of planning at the State level is embodied in our revamped Planning Department. Its broad purpose is to prepare a balanced, integrated program for the development and effective employment of the natural and other resources of the State. In pursuit of that purpose, it has continued its function of reviewing and making recommendations for the capital budget, has cooperated with many departments in specialized problems, has set up a special section to assist and stimulate planning in the local subdivisions and has worked effectively in the area of regional planning.

Its performance during the past seven months gives us every reason to believe that the reorganized Planning Department will be effective in the development of the resources of the State and in aiding the State government to solve the problems of many areas—problems which will be intensified in the years ahead by a growth in population and an accelerated industrial development.

I am pleased, likewise, by both the quality and the scope of the job that has been done by the Tidewater Fisheries Department which we