

mended increasing these taxes because the overriding concern was the maintenance of sound education and welfare programs. Politically speaking, it was not a wise move. No tax increase sits well with the public. To serve in good conscience, however, a politician, whether he be a local municipal officer or the President of the United States must abandon political motivation if he is to promote the welfare of the citizens who place their trust in him.

There are many who contend that the funds appropriated to raise teachers salaries and insure sound welfare programs could have been financed from the State surplus. What they fail to realize is that the State currently is running an annual average operating deficit of approximately \$7 million. To dissipate our surplus in one fell swoop rather than use it to offset our annual deficit, in my opinion, would have been foolhardy and unwise.

When we embark on new programs, the public should be called upon to provide the means of financing such programs immediately. Government must be fiscally responsible if it is to function effectively. We fool no one if we enact a program one year then attempt to finance it years later when many of our citizens have ceased being familiar with the very program they are being called upon to support.

With respect to capital improvements, funds appropriated for new and replacement facilities at the five state teachers colleges have increased significantly in recent years. During the first three years of my Administration, more than \$5 million was appropriated for capital improvements at the teachers colleges. This exceeds by more than \$1 million the total appropriations for teachers colleges made during the last three years of the previous Administration. It represents an increase of nearly 27 per cent. In 1961, slightly more than 40 per cent of the entire capital budget was devoted to public education.

Much, however, remains to be done. I am planning to request the next session of the General Assembly to approve increased appropriations for projects relating to our five state teachers colleges. I am recommending the construction of a new library, new science buildings, dormitories and other instructional facilities.

The future role to be performed by our teachers colleges will depend to a large extent on the recommendations of a special committee now studying the problem of higher education. The present committee is continuing the study first undertaken by the Warfield Commission. I think we all can agree that, although the recommendations of that Commission were not universally accepted, the public spirited men who