

In teaching, you have chosen one of the noblest of occupations. In all the relationships between men, I can think of none finer—with the exception perhaps of parent and child—than that of master and pupil. . . . The salvation of our ideals, our institutions, our way of life, will be determined by the success or failure of your mission. The heaviest part of the burden, as I have said, falls upon your shoulders. But those of us who do not teach are aware that we, too, have heavy responsibilities.

It is our obligation to provide you with the tools to do the job—to provide you with classrooms, laboratories, libraries and all the materials and equipment you need to perform your tasks. Recognition by the State of Maryland of its responsibility in the field of education is reflected in the effort that has been, and is being, made to improve our school system. We know, or we have reason to believe, that enrollments, from kindergarten through college, will double in the ten to twelve years ending in the early 1970's.

Maryland's expenditure for lower and higher education—operating budgets, capital improvements and related fields—roughly have doubled in the six years since 1956. Allocations of public funds for education now are increasing proportionally faster than student enrollments. Manifestations of this policy are to be found in the improvement of faculty salaries, in the expansion of physical plants and facilities to meet the enrollment growth, in the increase in the quality and quantity of services offered in the various other fields related to public education. As an example, close to home here, of our efforts to keep well ahead of the problem of enrollment increases, I refer you to an announcement I made yesterday regarding my recommendations for increased allotments for capital projects at the five state teachers colleges.

Since I took the oath of office as Governor of the State, these allowances for teachers college capital improvements, considering my recommendations for the 1963 year, have increased by 38 per cent. The best estimates indicate that the enrollment in these colleges over the same period will have increased by only 31 per cent. In short, what I am trying to point out is that at the same time we are trying to make provisions for the ever-increasing student population we are also making every effort to improve the quality of the education we are offering to our young men and our young women. If this policy is pursued, with prudence and under careful supervision, I have every reason to believe that Maryland will be able to maintain the enviable position it now holds as one of the leaders in education among the fifty states.