

reflected in the budget I am presenting to you today. You will find that some new programs have been added, while others have been curtailed. In every instance, however, an effort has been made to balance the fiscal resources of the State with the needs of the people.

In formulating this budget, it was not my intention to present an austere program for our State. I am well aware that overindulgence in budget cutting can lead to false economies. Besides, it has not been, and never will be, the policy of this Administration to subordinate legitimate human needs to the harsh and impersonal demands of the balance sheet. I do, however, stand committed to the elimination of waste, the duplication of services and extravagances of any kind. As legislators, it is your duty to review this budget carefully and eliminate any items which in your opinion may be so characterized.

In my message to you of a year ago, I stated also that more revenues would be needed by the State if services already contracted for were to be maintained at existing levels. Events of the past year confirmed that observation, and more general fund revenues are required in this budget to provide essentially the same services that have been provided in the past. This is the result mainly of two factors: (1) The inflation which affects all of us, and (2) A rapidly expanding population.

It is encouraging to report that our economy in Maryland stands virtually at its all-time peak. All indications are that we may expect a continuing expansion of the economy and growth in population. Growth and expansion, of course, are healthy factors, but they mean that governmental spending at all levels will continue to advance. Both factors have contributed to the budget increases of the past and will continue to contribute to increases in the future. It is imperative, therefore, that we continue a zealous search for economies in every possible direction. Additional taxation is unthinkable so long as revenues the State is receiving are sufficient to defray all necessary and essential governmental services.

The budget which I am presenting calls for total fund appropriations of \$476,758,352, which exceeds the amount you appropriated for the current year by \$40,025,050, or 9.2 per cent. Of this total amount, \$232,843,831 represents appropriations from general funds. This exceeds the general-fund appropriations of the current year by \$28,059,242, or 13.7 per cent.

In the interest of economy, requests for funds by the several de-