

a booklet which is being distributed to you. I should like at this time to direct your attention to a few of the projects.

You will find therein an appropriation of \$199,300 for the first phase in the establishment of a statewide microwave communication system, which not only will serve our Civil Defense Agency in emergencies but will provide a coordinated system of communication for other State agencies.

Our forests and parks in Maryland are among our finest assets, and I am recommending a capital appropriation of \$1,479,500 for their improvement. This includes \$1,000,000 for the continued acquisition of land for the Gunpowder Falls Park and \$100,000 to purchase land for the development of an ocean-front park on Assateague Island.

In the treatment of the mentally ill, authorities at Spring Grove State Hospital have been handicapped for too many years because of the obsolescent Old Centre Building. I am proposing an appropriation of \$2,700,000 to speed up the timing for razing and replacing this structure. Funds also are provided for projects at the other mental hospitals. The overall appropriation for our mental hospitals is \$3,690,300.

The teachers colleges will receive \$1,183,300 for various projects, including \$515,000 for the Coppin Laboratory School. The University of Maryland is to get \$1,587,000 for building at College Park and \$2,050,000 for land acquisition and the purchase of a building in its expansion program in Baltimore. Funds are being made available for construction of two new academic buildings at the Maryland State College in Princess Anne and for the planning of an administration building and various remodeling and improvement projects at Morgan State College.

This, then, is the fiscal program for the State that I am asking you to adopt at this session. It has been drawn up with great care, and in my mind it is a sound, sane program under which this great State can continue its march of progress. It takes into consideration both the needs of the people for services and their capacity to pay for them. I have no hesitancy in recommending it to you for your approval, but once more I invite your serious examination of the whole and all of its parts.

I realize that great pressure will be brought to bear upon you during this session by representatives of special groups. These groups in their zeal usually are asking essentially for a disproportionate share of State funds. No matter how sincere their intentions and how