

next ten years, our industries and businesses will need more and more men and women with these qualities.

The Committee to Promote Employment of the Handicapped faces, as all of us do, a great challenge in the sixties to move forward in its work, press home with increasing vigor the value of the principles it upholds and to help Maryland grow.

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ADDRESS, ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE DINNER  
MARYLAND ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

ANNAPOLIS

February 7, 1961

I am honored, let me assure you, to be the guest of an organization which has done so much to concentrate public attention upon one of the great social problems of our era—the care and treatment of the mentally ill in our State. As long as the problem of mental health remains as grave as it is, here as elsewhere, it would be unbecoming of me to express anything akin to satisfaction with what has been done here in Maryland. Nevertheless, I think we can derive a certain amount of gratification from the progress we have made during these past few years in the area of mental health.

I am pleased to report to this Association, and to its guests who are assembled here, that again this year, as was the case of the two previous years of my Administration, I am recommending substantial additional funds in the budget to finance this all-important service of State government. I am asking the General Assembly to approve for the fiscal year beginning next July 1 a general fund appropriation of \$23,322,278 for the Department of Mental Hygiene. This is \$1,137,746 more than was allotted the Department this year. This increase in appropriations for mental health I am urging, despite the continuing decline in the patient population of our six mental hospitals. For, as admissions continue to increase in these hospitals, so have discharges at an even faster pace, with the result that there has been a steady decline in the total hospital population. This all comes about, as most of you know, I am sure, by reason, primarily of two factors:

1. The vigorous development of drugs used in the treatment of mental patients.