

is geared to the implementation of the point system and its prompt administration and enforcement will be the construction of the new building for the Department of Motor Vehicles. Land has been acquired during this Administration, plans have been drawn and bids will be let in the very near future. This building is so designed that it will house the most modern type of electronic equipment and devices for the accurate and swift recordation of all data pertaining to owners and operators of motor vehicles in the State of Maryland. It will promote a more efficient operation of the Department.

While there already has been considerable improvement in the issuance of license tags in the State with a minimum of confusion and delay, the Department of Motor Vehicles has undertaken studies and is making recommendations for the issuance of license tags in Baltimore City through the police stations in order to further eliminate the delay and confusion which may still exist.

If the Department of Correction is to fulfill its responsibilities, it must be provided with adequate physical plant and facilities and stimulated to carry on effective rehabilitation programs for prisoners. I am pleased to note that a way has been cleared for the erection of the new medium-security institution for males and that other facilities have been opened to relieve serious overcrowding at the Penitentiary, the House of Correction and the Reformatory for Males. Measures have been taken, also, to improve the highly important work of treating defective delinquents at the Patuxent Institution by expanding the professional staff and the construction of a new diagnostic center.

In public welfare, food allowances to public assistance clients and allowances for foster care have been increased. In compliance with a request this Assembly made last year, I appointed a commission to study the problem of illegitimacy and its effect upon our program of aid to dependent children. The commission has reported to you that more time is required for its study and has requested another year of life to complete its work. I shall be glad to grant that request.

In the area of forests and parks, high priority has been given by this Administration to the acquisition of land for recreational use to provide for the rapidly growing population of the State. During the past two years, for example, more than \$3,000,000 has been provided to purchase park lands and I am proposing that nearly another \$1,500,000 be appropriated for this purpose at this session of the General Assembly. In addition, more than \$600,000 is available or proposed for projects to improve existing parks so as to provide bet-