

a State Department of Assessments and Taxation with administrative functions. This legislation became effective on July 1, 1959, and the transition from the old State Tax Commission has been smooth, rewarding, and in the public interest.

This appraisal of conditions, together with my suggestions of new laws to improve our State Government, does not purport to be all-embracing. The budget message will contain a more comprehensive review of departmental programs, and other proposals for legislation will be laid out before you as the session progresses. Other matters not directly related to the operation of State Government—but nevertheless of vital importance to the people we serve—will be placed before you for your consideration and judgment at this session.

And now may I conclude by expressing my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all of you for the help, the advice and the friendly cooperation I have received from you during this first half of my term as Governor. The burden of that office has been greatly eased by your generous support. It is my fondest wish that the cordial relationship we have established may continue in the years ahead. You know that the door of my office will remain open to you for a mutual exchange of help and advice—or, for that matter, for just a friendly visit.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Assembly, we have much work ahead for the next ninety days. We can, and will, best serve the people of Maryland by working together at our common task.

ABBREVIATED BUDGET MESSAGE

January 24, 1961

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

I have asked you to meet with me here today so that I may submit to your two bodies the financial program I have prepared for the operation of the government of the State of Maryland during the fiscal year beginning next July 1.

The customary budgetary documents—the Budget Book, the Personnel Supplement and the longer and more detailed printed budget message—will be placed into your hands today. I commend these