

Hygiene. The State has been handsomely rewarded by the initiation of improved techniques and programs, along with the vigorous development of a large variety of drugs used for mental illnesses. The result is that for the fifth consecutive year the patient population in our mental hospitals has continued to decline. For example, the average population of all State mental hospitals declined from 10,830 for the 1960 fiscal year to 10,746 for the first five months of 1961. With the planned opening of the day hospitals for the mentally ill and day care centers for the mentally retarded, it is expected that the admission rate of the institutions will continue to decline.

These circumstances present an inducement to reduce appropriations for mental health, but we have, wisely I think, resisted such temptation. We have, instead, increased the general fund appropriation for the Department by \$1,137,746, with the feeling that the favorable conditions cited presents us with the opportunity to render the kind of service that may be expected of us in the care and treatment of the unfortunate victims of mental illness.

In public welfare, the budget recommended, calculated on the current federal matching basis, shows a net increase of \$2,368,792. This extra allotment envisions a net case-load increase of 520, along with the extra case workers that will be needed, additional money for improved food standards and an increased allotment for the boarding care of children.

The safety of our citizens, particularly on our highways, is of great moment, and this budget reflects our determination to bring about a greater measure of protection to Marylanders. Money has been allotted to finance the operations of the point-system by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The budget of the Department itself shows a net decrease of \$163,635, which results from the phase-out of the operators' re-registration program. The new operators license renewal program, requiring operators to renew licenses every two years, will be financed by a \$2 fee.

We can derive no great satisfaction from the slight decrease in highway fatalities last year. We must continue to do our utmost to curtail the heavy death toll. In my opinion, one of the really effective deterrents to highway accidents is an efficient police force. I, therefore, am recommending an additional 40 State Troopers to augment the present force of 591 in our Maryland State Police, twenty for a full year and twenty for the last half of the fiscal year.

In civil defense, the federal government is committed to match the personnel and administrative expenses of the total civil defense