
TAXATION AND FINANCE

The subject of taxation and finance was of primary interest to Governor Tawes. He regarded the fiscal role as a major responsibility of the governor. His experience in state and local financial affairs included eight years as Clerk of Court, three years as State Bank Commissioner, and seventeen years as State Comptroller. As a result he developed a knowledge of finance and tax administration equalled by few public officials.

The Governor was a firm believer in sound financial policy and long-range planning. The maintenance of a comfortable surplus and wise spending were central in his philosophy of managing state funds.

The key to his fiscal program was evident in the budget message of 1962-63 when he stated, "I set a goal at the beginning of this term not to raise taxes for state administrative purposes during the four years. And now as we approach the end of the term it is most gratifying to me to be able to repeat that this goal has been attained."

REMARKS ON THE 1959-60 BUDGET

January 27, 1959

Today I presented to the Maryland General Assembly my budgetary program for the fiscal year which begins next July 1. Generally speaking, it is a program which provides for the continuation and improvement of essential State services without an increase in taxes.

The budget I submitted calls for strict economy in the operation of our State Government. But as I see it, it is not an austerity budget. No service that I know of is impaired or seriously curtailed. A number of them are strengthened and improved.

Appropriations have been increased for education, public health, mental hygiene, public welfare, law enforcement and for the operation of our correctional institutions, to name only a few. The fiscal plan I have offered calls for an appropriation of \$447,000,000 in general, special and federal funds, which is \$48,000,000 more than the appropriations for the current year.