

of a free society, and in this troubled world our peace and our freedom may well hinge on the effort we make to give the young people of our country the best available education and training. Our program of public education in Maryland has been broadened, intensified and accelerated in each successive budget for the past several years, with the result that, viewed at any level from the elementary grades through college and university, Maryland holds a position of high rank in relationship to the rest of the country. Maryland ranks among the top ten of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, for example, in average salaries for all classroom teachers and also in per-pupil expenditures. The \$5,940 average salary for Maryland teachers is \$413 higher than the national average, and the \$443 it spends per pupil exceeds the national average by \$29.

The administration has pursued an undeviating course toward improving both the quantity and the quality of education in our public school system. This policy is evident in the budget I am submitting for the Department of Education, which calls for a total expenditure of nearly \$131,000,000, or some \$8,500,000 more than we appropriated last year for educational purposes. In aid to education, Baltimore City and the twenty-three counties, under my recommendations, will receive \$6,616,000 more next year than this year. Provision is made to meet the requirements of an expanding school population. Provision is also being made to increase the aid to the subdivisions by some \$316,000 to assist them in the problem of increased enrollments in the junior colleges.

Both the operational and the capital budgets which I am presenting for your consideration reflect the deep concern this administration has for improving our public institutions of higher learning—the University of Maryland and its Princess Anne branch, Morgan State College and the five state teachers colleges.

You are aware that a special commission now is making a study of this problem with the aim of devising a plan that will fulfill present and future needs in this all-important field of endeavor. The Commission has made satisfactory progress in the work it has undertaken, but I am advised that we may not expect a report and recommendations at this session of the general assembly.

Meanwhile, I am proposing that we proceed at all practicable speed in plant construction and equipment and in staffing our institutions under the present system.

The capital budget, as I have indicated, makes allowances for