

do. The Department of Motor Vehicles, for example, has been revamped and reconstituted to enable it to handle the extra work assigned to it. The State Police has been strengthened annually since we took office. In the budget I am submitting to you today, this policy is continued.

In the printed message which you are receiving today, programs and departmental activities are treated in considerable detail, but the time limitation compels me to be more brief in this address.

I am asking you to increase the budget of the Department of Public Welfare in the amount of \$2,511,162. The increase reflects, among other things, an expansion of the case load, improved food standards and a boost in the board rates for boarding children.

Additional appropriations are recommended in both the operational and capital budgets of the Department of Forests and Parks to expedite the acquisition of land and the development of parks and recreational facilities.

Our Department of Planning is making headway in its effort to achieve a balanced, integrated program for the development and employment of the natural and human resources of the State.

The threat of thermonuclear warfare has sharpened popular interest in civil defense, and our Civil Defense Agency is standing in readiness to give the closest possible cooperation to the Federal Government in the shelter program.

Now, I should like to direct your attention to some matters which in my judgment greatly affect the public interest and which, therefore, deserve your consideration and action at this thirty-day session. The question of a reapportionment of the general assembly to give a more equitable representation to the more populous subdivisions remains unsettled, and I believe this issue should be resolved at this session. You had a bill before you last year which was narrowly defeated in the House of Delegates. A similar measure, with a significant amendment providing automatic revisions with population changes, will be introduced at this session.

I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

You will have before you, also, a bill, drafted by a committee I appointed last year, to establish a State supervisor, but privately operated, program for insuring the deposits of non-federally-insured savings and loan associations. In the interest of further safeguarding the investments of our citizens in these institutions, I solicit your support of this bill.