

General fund requests by State agencies exceeded the appropriations allowed by \$18,758,267. Requests were screened with great care. Allowances were made for a sound expansion of present programs where the need was indicated. In no instance were necessary functions curtailed or levels of service lowered. In every case, economy of operation was constantly in mind.

As I have said, I have tried to strike a balance between the needs of the people and their ability to pay taxes. This, then, is my legislative program, financial and general.

In my best judgment and in my honest belief, it is a sound, sensible program, and as such, worthy of your favorable consideration.

If it is approved, I think we can face our constituency at the end of our stewardship with pride and satisfaction—proud because we have honored a trust and satisfied with a job well done.