

or seriously curtailed. A number of them are strengthened and improved, as we shall see later.

In the requests they submitted to the budget director last summer, department heads asked for a total appropriation of \$461,668,013, of which \$217,418,541 represented general fund requests. The amount they asked was 15.6 per cent more than total appropriations for 1959 and 22.2 per cent more than the general fund appropriation for the same period. The total fund appropriations I have allowed amount to \$447,869,484. This is a reduction in the amount requested of \$13,798,529, of which \$12,617,113 is general funds. The appropriations recommended require an increase of \$26,876,602 in general funds for the fiscal year 1960.

As I have indicated, every effort has been made to practice rigid economy. Expenses for future programs were eliminated if there was doubt that such programs would be in operation during the year. No appropriation was made for unfilled jobs if a pattern of unfilled vacancies appeared in the past. A full year's impact of the new salary schedule authorized by the General Assembly in 1958 is reflected in the appropriation of each department. This item accounts for \$3,372,353 of the total increase. An additional \$6,953,167 was needed to finance mandatory requirements in the laws applicable to the State school system, mainly to take care of a growing school population and retirement system increases.

In examining the budgetary documents before you, you will observe that 91 per cent of the general fund increase will be found in appropriations for education, health, welfare and correction. The additional money for health, hospitals and correctional institutions is to be used primarily to staff, equip and operate new or expanded facilities, such as the Chronic Disease Hospital at Montebello, the Maximum Security Hospital of the Department of Mental Hygiene, the Maryland Children's Center of the Department of Public Welfare, new units at the University of Maryland and many others.

Time will not permit me to discuss in detail here the departmental programs. I should like to call your attention, however, to some features of a few of them.

It was gratifying to all of us, I am sure, to learn that fatalities on our highways declined by approximately 10 per cent in 1958. The strengthening of the Maryland State Police over the past several years has, in my opinion, been an important factor in holding down the highway death toll. Therefore, I am recommending an additional