

STATE OF THE STATE
AND
ABBREVIATED BUDGET MESSAGE

February 5, 1964

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the General Assembly:

It is my privilege to come before you today, in the exercise of a Constitutional and traditional responsibility, to report to you on the affairs of the State government for the year just ended and to suggest for your consideration plans for the year ahead. I am pleased to extend to you a warm hand of welcome and friendship as you meet here at the seat of our government to begin another session of the General Assembly of Maryland.

The task we are called upon to perform during these next few weeks is not to be an easy one. But experience has taught me that the task will not be an unpleasant one if we assume the attitude of public servants striving to do our utmost for the health, happiness, prosperity and freedom of the people we serve. And so, we may, I think, view the challenges ahead of us for the next thirty days with pleasure and with high expectations. We know the democratic processes well enough to expect some controversy and some conflict in deliberating the problems of our State. But our knowledge of these processes assures us that out of the controversy and the conflict will come the strength and the unity that are the blessings of a free people governing themselves. By the will of the people of Maryland, as expressed through their Constitution and their laws, our main effort for the next thirty days must be directed to the shaping of plans for the financial management of the State government during the next fiscal year. This involves the complicated problem of allocating funds for operating the governmental agencies and institutions which have been established to serve the needs of the people. It also involves the difficult duty of assessing the people for the revenues that are required to provide these services.

Each year at this time, it is my obligation under the Constitution to give the lawmaking body a report on the conditions of our State. It is also my duty, as the Chief Executive, to offer you a plan of action designed to serve the best interests of the State and its people. Generally speaking, Maryland now is enjoying a period of great prosperity, bolstered by a strong and healthy economy which reflects