

the industry and determination of a hardy and enlightened population. It is a situation, in my opinion, which calls for bold action on our part to sustain the pace that has been set. We must under these circumstances, I think, move ahead courageously in the spirit of our times toward new goals and new horizons. To allow Maryland to falter or lag behind in an era of general advancement would be to neglect our responsibilities as public officials. We must continue our efforts to expand our economy so that the people may have jobs and profits and all the benefits that go with life in a prosperous society. We must battle relentlessly the evil enemies of mankind—ignorance, poverty and disease, knowing that we may lose the fight unless we put forward our best efforts to improve the quality of our education, to develop our economy to its fullest potential, and to strengthen our programs for the prevention, treatment and cure of human illnesses.

The budget which I am submitting to you for your consideration today attempts to translate these stated objectives into action. It is not an extravagant and visionary program which I am asking you to endorse. On the other hand, it is not a program of weakness and timidity, such as would jeopardize the future happiness and prosperity of our citizens.

#### *STATE OF THE STATE*

But before I got on with the budget plan, I should like to review with you in more detail some of the conditions of the State which we may wish to consider in connection with the decisions we make at this session. Briefly speaking, the economic condition of our State, as I have indicated, is good. Our factories are humming, our market places are teeming with buying and selling, our lanes of commerce are crowded, our people have attained a standard of living that Marylanders of a generation ago would have thought unattainable. Two weeks ago President Johnson gave a report to the Congress on the economic state of the nation which indicated that the national economy is indeed in a healthy condition. With a gross national product growing at a rate of 5 per cent—in fact, reaching the \$624 billion level during the last quarter of 1963—the national economy shows great vigor and reveals an excellent potential for a continuing upward thrust in this current year.

What is the economic picture of Maryland? While the gross national product expanded at the 5 per cent rate, the total state income and product of Maryland was developing at a rate to 10 per cent. According to estimates of our Department of Economic Develop-