

partment of Health and the Department of Mental Hygiene for the good health of the people. The Department of Health, with its additional funds, will broaden its activities to meet the essential services required by the growth in population, advances in laboratory and medical research and the increased professional and public awareness of health hazards in our rapidly changing environment. The paradox of a declining patient population in our mental hospitals and a new record high of admissions in these hospitals continues, reflecting a continued improvement in the treatment and discharge of patients under treatment for mental illness.

Funds are being made available to the Department of Mental Hygiene to increase further the caliber and the tempo of treatment and to enable the hospitals to meet the increasing demand for admissions. Mental retardation is one of the most vexing of our health problems, and in both the operational budget and the capital budget funds have been included to provide better care and treatment of the victims of this sad affliction.

PUBLIC WELFARE

No civilized society would neglect its poor, its homeless, its orphans, its handicapped, and so Maryland next year, on the basis of an ever-increasing demand, will provide substantial increases in funds for the operation of its program of public welfare. So much for the vital services of education, health and welfare. Let us turn now to other governmental endeavors.

HIGHWAYS

We are proud of the system of highways we have developed in Maryland, and any sound planning for the future of our State must include a broadened program for building more and better roads. Last year we experienced an unparalleled growth in highway construction. During 1964 payments to road contractors totaled \$70,983,534, an increase of some 65 per cent over the previous year. This figure represents more construction in a single year than ever before in the history of our State. Presently under construction or rehabilitation are 194 miles of highway. When this is completed, it will mean that 1,267 miles of highways have been built or rehabilitated in Maryland since I took office in January, 1959. The budget which I have presented to you provides for funds necessary to carry on the mammoth six-year road construction program which was started last year.