

the mentally ill and the mentally retarded initiated by Dr. Tuerk, are now familiar features of Maryland's community mental health landscape.

The budget which I have submitted to the General Assembly proposes a number of new features. Among them are a comprehensive mental health center, the first of several, to be associated with the University of Maryland. Also, there are provisions for expanded treatment resources for the mentally ill in the general hospitals. And, there is a low-cost therapy project to utilize the interest and the skill of professional personnel in private practice.

In no area has Dr. Tuerk's vision been clearer than in the area of alcoholism. Throughout his career of public service, he has emphasized the need for the treatment of alcoholics as sick people. I am told that the alcoholic rehabilitation units of our four State hospitals are outstanding, treating both the acute and chronic stages of the disease, engaging in a variety of research and training the personnel of many disciplines. The budget for the Department of Mental Hygiene provides matching funds not only for the expansion of the full-time alcoholism clinic of the Baltimore City Health Department, but also for a director of alcoholism programs in that Department. And for alcoholism consultants to serve the city's courts, general hospitals and social agencies. Much, of course, must be done to reach the State's 80,000 to 100,000 alcoholics, but I am confident that we are moving forward steadily toward that goal.

To conclude, let me express my deep appreciation to the Maryland Association for Mental Health for inviting me to attend this dinner. On behalf of the people of my State, let me thank Dr. Blain, Mrs. Mann and the others who have come here to take part in this program of the Association. The State of Maryland is aware of the magnitude of the problems we face in the mental health of its citizens. We need and we solicit the advice and the help of conscientious, responsible people such as are gathered together here this evening at this dinner.