

sure that governors and legislators want to give the people the full value of all the money they collect in taxes.

It is our responsibility, as public officials, not only to see that they get the full value of all the money they spend in taxes, but also to explain to them just how and just where they are getting it.

ADDRESS, FOURTH ANNUAL CHURCHMEN'S
LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

ANNAPOLIS

February 10, 1965

Dr. Bell, members of the Maryland Council of Churches, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Let me begin by offering my congratulations to the Maryland Council of Churches for sponsoring the annual seminars in which the leaders of the religious community of Maryland undertake to learn more about the legislative processes and legislative matters pending in our General Assembly. I deeply appreciate the invitation I received to come here today and assure you that I consider it a high privilege to be able to speak to such a distinguished group.

For the time allotted to me here, I thought it might be appropriate that we discuss some aspects of the budget which the General Assembly now has under consideration. In many respects, the preparation of a budget is one of the heaviest of the responsibilities of my office. It involves, of course, the planning of expenditures and revenues of the State government. Preparing a budget for the government of three and a half million people, representing an annual expenditure of three-quarters of a billion dollars, means finding the right answers to a great number of plaguing and perplexing questions. What services do the people want? What services do the people need? How much will they cost? How much do the people want to pay for them? How much can they afford to pay for them? How is the money to be raised to pay for them?

It is a characteristic of human beings to want as much as they can get for as little as possible. We like as many services from government as possible but paying taxes is distasteful to all of us. And yet, it is perfectly obvious that government cannot function without revenues—that government can no more provide goods and services free of charge than can the private individual.