

There is a story in circulation among my newspaper friends that the printers in all of their offices save the type of one newspaper headline for use each year. The headline is: "Governor submits record budget to the General Assembly." That such a headline will be useful for the years ahead appears to be altogether probable, because in a rapidly growing, progressive State such as Maryland there is little likelihood of reducing appreciably the aggregate expenditure of State funds. The only way it could possibly be accomplished would be to reduce the quality and the quantity of State services, and, if I know the people of my State at all, I don't believe they would stand for that.

Last week an excellent article appeared on the editorial page of one of our metropolitan daily newspapers entitled "the money flows in and out." It had to do with the State budget. I should like to give you this quotation from the article:

"When Governor Tawes was inaugurated for his first term January 14, 1959, the State government was operating under a budget totaling \$395.5 million," it said. "The budget proposal Mr. Tawes has sent to the General Assembly for the fiscal year beginning July 1 calls for expenditures in excess of \$760.6 million. That big expansion," the article goes on to say, "seems to run counter to the opinion that the Governor is a conservative in State fiscal management. But does it?" the question is asked.

"Mr. Tawes is not an innovator," the article continues. "He has rarely initiated new spending programs. He has adhered to policies which have necessitated increased appropriations and given his support to new programs only in cases of heavy pressure. Furthermore, the rapid growth in the State's population has made increased spending inevitable."

This, I think, is a fair and valid appraisal of my record in the management of the State's financial affairs. I have, as it is said, adhered to policies which have necessitated increased appropriation, and yet I have not been an innovator of new schemes.

What are these policies which I have adhered to that has made it necessary for me to present a "record budget" in each of the years I have been Governor? Well, essentially it is a policy of sustaining, and wherever possible improving the vital State services—principally for public education, public health and public welfare. In my message to the General Assembly this year, I pointed out that approximately 84 per cent of the general fund appropriation which I am recommending for next year is allocated to education, health and welfare.