

We would not be amiss to compare the government of Maryland to a huge corporation. The Governor is the head of this corporation, you the citizens are its stockholders, and the General Assembly — now meeting in special session at the State House — could be considered its Board of Directors.

This corporation, like any business, produces both goods and services. State roads and highways, the University of Maryland and State colleges, forest and parklands, hospitals for the physically or emotionally ill are just some of the facilities which are produced by the State government.

State programs and services are as extensive as the demands of its citizens, who are not only the primary stockholders but the primary consumers of the products developed by the State corporation.

In order to administer and provide these services, over 240 various departments, agencies, commissions and bureaus have come into being. The size and operating costs of each unit are directly related to its functions and responsibilities. This ranges from the tremendous State Roads Commission which in 1968 will employ over 4,200 persons and spend almost \$174 million, to the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners whose services will cost the State only \$150 next fiscal year. However, in the last analysis, the Governor is responsible for the adequate and efficient performance of every one of these 240 units which comprise the executive branch of the Maryland State government.

The budget is the major instrument to finance all State services and to provide for the orderly expansion and development of programs and facilities. This year the State budget exceeded one billion dollars.

The Governor is responsible to present the budget for the next ensuing fiscal year during the first ten days of the annual General Assembly session. The General Assembly must approve the budget in order for it to take effect, in much the same manner that the Legislature enacts all statutes. The General Assembly, may, in fact, reduce or delete budget recommendations, but it *cannot* increase or add any appropriations to the budget bill.

The Governor can by increasing the budget for a certain department or agency provide the financial means to initiate or expand a program. Conversely, by decreasing any unit's budget recommendation the Governor can effectively eliminate obsolete programs, curtail the duplication of services or combat unnecessary expenditures. The State