

impossible for the incoming administration to tailor this budget in its entirety to my policies. Although I designated a qualified representative to work full-time with State budget officials immediately after the election, it was impossible to complete for each program the necessary investigations which must logically precede major shifts in policy. However, policy decisions as to the down payment on capital improvements, the construction program, and the executive office restructuring as recommended by the Curlett Commission, are my decisions and I accept full responsibility for them.

It is essential that we carefully examine all State programs and activities to rejustify their necessity and to determine if they are producing results worthy of their cost. The Curlett Commission has also recognized this problem and has recommended that an office be established to continually review government operations and organization to correct inefficiencies and improve coordination. I agree with that recommendation. As one of my first acts after taking office, I have established, within the Executive Department, a Task Force on Modern Management to report directly to me. This Task Force has been charged with the responsibility of examining every program and agency of State government to justify its existence and to develop measures of cost, production, effectiveness, and efficiency. Our objective is to assure full value to the taxpayers.

I have also accepted another of the Curlett Commission recommendations in the organization of my personal staff. The Commission found a need for improved coordination and communication within the executive branch of government and recommended several special assistants to the Governor to perform that function. To meet this need, I have provided for six program executives who will report directly to me and who will specialize in particular program areas of government to keep me better informed and to insure that the activities of State departments and agencies are not in conflict.

These two recommendations of the Commission on the Modernization of the executive branch of Government have been implemented in this budget because they affect the organization of the Executive Department. I am sure that many of the other proposals of the Commission are worthy of adoption and as soon as I have had an opportunity to study its report, I expect to have further recommendations for you.

Also included in the budget of the Executive Department is a provision for opening a suburban Washington office of the Governor. Not