

tion. The last General Assembly also established a Police Training Commission to determine and set minimum training requirements for all of Maryland's law enforcement officers. This budget recommends appropriations to facilitate the development of regional training programs to assist local law enforcement personnel in meeting those qualifications and standards determined by the Police Training Commission.

Finally, I would like to bring to your attention that the budget of the Department of Correction was held to a minimum pending the release of the Michaelson report. Even so, an increase of \$1.9 million was required to allow 181 additional positions, mainly for staffing new facilities and operating expanded programs. While this increase is substantial, I request that you bear in mind that this is a crucial area demanding immediate constructive action. The riot at the Maryland Penitentiary last July destroyed State property in excess of \$500,000. We can no longer afford to curb expenditures in this area. Short-sighted pseudo-economies will inevitably be obliterated by long-range expenses.

CONCLUSION

In this first executive budget, I have been unable to examine in detail all of the programs and policies upon which it is predicated. However, I am satisfied that it maintains those services essential to our citizens for their continued well-being. This does not mean that I am committed to continued support for every activity included here.

There are additional areas, such as State employee salaries and fiscal reform, where I feel it is essential that action be taken this year. On such subjects I shall transmit recommendations to you at a later date.

The budget is the core of government — establishing priorities and providing for the utilization of our available resources in services to our citizens. While we may differ concerning specific programs to be financed, or priorities to be established, I am sure that we can all agree on the ultimate objective — the maximum benefit to our citizens with the minimum of taxation and governmental regulation. We can also agree on the principle that we must produce a dollar's value for each tax dollar spent. To that end I commit myself and this administration.