

employed on a rodent control program. The newspaper report indicated that only 327 jobs were provided by private industry. And it further implied that the whole thrust of the program was of a stop gap nature.

The thing that concerns me most about this pessimistic evaluation is that this program was mounted at considerable expense to the State and followed through with energy and dedication on the part of the public and private officials who were involved in it. The State appropriated \$480,000 from the emergency fund, or committed that amount, to sustain this program. The Board of Estimates of Baltimore City contributed money. The Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Baltimore provided office space for Mr. Lee and set up an organized job recruiting program among industry.

In the same report Mr. Lee has made further recommendations for placing the program on a continuing basis, and I'm having these examined now for implementation. I can see no reason for the pessimism and the disparagement of the effort expressed in the news article.

[The Governor then read in full his Statement on Capital Punishment, printed above.—Ed.]

Lastly, I would like to announce, in response to questions I've received from previous press conferences, the rate of growth of budgetary quests this year. I have a letter from the Director of the Budget which reads as follows:

In response to your inquiry relative to the 1969 budget requests, compared to the previous year's requests, an examination of the 1969 requests for those agencies received to date as of October 5 indicates that they are 29.8 percent higher than the 1968 appropriations. However, the 1968 requests for the same agencies show that they were 54.1 percent higher than the 1967 appropriations.

So you see there has been a decrease of 20 percent between this year and last year.

**Q.** Governor, are you saying that the budget requests for the next fiscal year will not require another tax increase?

**A.** Well, I think we've got to understand one thing. First of all I'm sure that you do understand that the budget requests and the budget are two different matters. Budget requests are always far in excess of the actual recommended executive budget. So budget requests would have no ascertainable relationship to the final budget as presented by the executive.