

3. Neither the present nor Draft Constitution provides for gubernatorial approval of the enacted budget bill. The executive budget sets policy on many administrative programs and represents the Governor's recommendation for a coordinated plan of operations for the coming fiscal year. Although the General Assembly cannot increase the executive budget, it does have the authority to delete items and to amend wording which may materially change the intent and impact of programs. In such an interrelated plan, even items which are not changed may take on a different aspect because of changes in other parts of the fiscal plan.

I recommend that the Governor should be given line item approval over the final budget enacted by the General Assembly. This would assure maximum consistency in the final budget.

4. As I stated in my address to the Convention on September 29, I share the concern of respected and experienced State fiscal experts over the impact of any bond period extension on the credit rating of the State. Nonetheless, we can see and must face a need to implement unusual and massive programs to purify our air and waters, to provide modern transportation systems and to meet the present challenge to public safety.

Bond issues for such programs cannot be amortized over a 15-year period without a dramatic increase in the current tax burden. Furthermore, the beneficial life of the improvements growing out of such programs would justify liquidation over a longer period.

The period for bond amortization is a controversial issue and reconciliation of differing views seems to be in order. Alternatives should be explored and I suggest as one possibility the retention of our 15-year limitation, with extension in particular cases up to a 25-year maximum. Exceptional extensions should be limited by the Constitution to those instances when the Governor certifies the necessity for such action and a three-fifths majority vote of both houses of the General Assembly concurs.

5. I favor a provision that would require the Governor to include in his executive budget, without change, requests for appropriations from the legislative and judicial branches of government. However, the Governor should retain the traditional right to make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning such budget requests. As I stated on September 29, I believe that the Governor should have the right to exercise line item veto or reduction over both legislative and judicial appropriations. Without this right of executive review, the