

Maryland's most immediate problems. The administration's proposals for new programs confront several of these urgent problems.

Highest priority is given to a Comprehensive Water Pollution Control Program. Maryland is dominated by her waters, and Maryland's waterways have created her economic strength. Our 4,000 miles of waterfront and 2,400 square miles of water comprise Maryland's greatest natural resource, one we cannot afford to continue to abuse or neglect. With proper care and control of our waters, we can attract more industry, more shipping, more tourists and increase our seafood and agriculture production. But if we proceed on our present course, we will be hard pressed to safeguard the health of our citizens as a single objective.

Water pollution presently exists in such critical proportions that timid legislation and piecemeal administrative programs will no longer suffice. Our effort must be intensive and comprehensive, for only a multi-faceted legislative attack involving immediate capital expenditures can prevent further, and eliminate existing, pollution in Maryland's waters.

Therefore, I shall submit for your consideration legislation authorizing a \$129 million bond issue to finance a comprehensive program, including authorization to provide State grants and to prepay Federal grants, so that subdivisions will be assisted *now* in the construction of urgently needed sewage treatment facilities. This program — one year in the planning — has been designed to cover virtually every factor essential to water quality control. Provisions are made to improve storm drainage systems; to curtail unrestrained open surface runoff; to regulate marinas and watercraft; to encourage demonstration projects, regional programs and research. Tax relief for industries installing expensive pollution abatement equipment comprises an integral part of this measure.

The portion loaned to local governments and the amounts advanced to prepay Federal grants will, of course, be recovered. Thus the program will cost the State considerably less than the \$129 million involved in the proposed bond issue.

The complexity of this program and the expenditures involved merit detailed justification that time precludes in this speech. However, a special message will be transmitted to you with the legislative proposals to provide precise, substantial background information.

One of the darkest shadows in our generally bright state of the State envelops our many emotionally disturbed citizens. In 1966, the