

faculty and administrative salaries of all State colleges and the University of Maryland.

The 1969 budget reflects the administration's continued dedication to improving the quality and availability of higher education for more of our younger citizens. Recommended appropriations for the University of Maryland total \$78.6 million, an increase of \$7.6 million, or nearly 10 percent over the present fiscal year. Those for State colleges are \$24.8 million, an increase of \$3.2 million or 13 percent over the 1968 budget. A comparison of the overall 1969 appropriation increase of 7.7 percent with the percentage increases recommended for our State institutions of higher learning demonstrates the high priority placed by the administration in this area of State service.

OTHER PROGRAMS

While the present revenue situation has forced a curtailment of growth in some State services in the operating budget, I have tried to allow a full, normal expansion of planned facilities in the capital budget, financed from long-term bond issues.

The separate bond bill includes 132 projects at an estimated cost of \$51,098,100. Among the projects are a new \$8.5 million State Laboratory Building for the Health Department in Baltimore; construction of a \$3.2 million Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Center which will enable the State to provide modern training for many more of its physically handicapped in a long neglected area of State service; construction of a 60-bed unit for the severely retarded at Rosewood; provision of planning funds for the second stage (300 additional beds) at the Center for the Mentally Retarded in the Washington Metropolitan Area; and construction of a School of Architecture Building at the University of Maryland.

It is important to note that more than 80 percent of the projects allowed in the capital budget are for higher and special education, health and mental hygiene, and natural resources development.

I would also like to invite your attention to several specific items — some of relatively small amount but all of far-reaching importance — in the State operating budget:

Graduate Corps — Through the minimal expenditure of \$60,000, State government has an opportunity to inaugurate a model management training program. In a commencement address last June at the University of Maryland, I called for the creation of a Graduate Corps to attract and enlist Maryland's brightest young minds into State