

by any means austere. It provides for a reasonable growth in carefully selected areas and expands to a moderate degree the almost unprecedented increase in expenditures approved in last year's budget and the subsequent fiscal reform program. Education and health services continue to advance in significant proportion to other fields in the State effort. But new programs are called for and must be begun, including the present pressing problems of water pollution, alcoholism and mental health, for which innovative programs and self-financing will be submitted. Your attention and careful consideration are invited to the detailed facets of the budget.

NEWS RELEASE AND STATEMENT ON HIGH SPEED RAILROAD CROSSINGS

January 21, 1968

Governor Agnew announced today that Maryland will seek Federal funds to eliminate all grade crossings of the Pennsylvania Railroad for the New York to Washington high speed train demonstration program that starts this spring.

He said the action is urgently needed for the safety of motorists using the 17 grade crossings which would be affected in Maryland by the Federally-aided project.

The State Roads Commission, which recommended to the Governor that Federal assistance be sought, estimated that it will cost about \$15 million to insure safety at the crossings.

Only one of the crossings, on Glendale Road (Maryland 193) in Prince George's County, is in the State highway system. The others are in county roads systems.

"With the inauguration of the high speed rail service now scheduled for the last Sunday in April, 1968, each of these crossings will become critical safety hazards," Governor Agnew said. "Neither the State nor the counties have funds which are available or could be used to finance the improvements.

"I agree with the State Roads Commission that since the Federal Department of Transportation is supplying \$11.6 million of the \$56.6 million cost of the two-year demonstration program, it is incumbent upon the Federal government to assume responsibility for hazards that will be created or intensified by the high speed trains."