

progress at that date will permit me to call a special session of the General Assembly in early January for the purpose of electing a new Governor. If for any reason I am not able to complete my administration at that time, I will defer my resignation until the Legislature meets in regular session on January 15. But in no instance will I defer beyond that date.

May I reassure the citizens of Maryland that every effort is being made to assure continuity in the Executive decision making process. To this end the following steps have been taken:

1. The budget for the 1970 fiscal year is in an advanced state of preparation. Naturally, it reflects to a large degree the policies and priorities established during my administration, just as the first budget I presented to the General Assembly indicated the emphasis of the Tawes administration. However, I have directed Mr. James Slicher, Director of the Department of Budget and Procurement, to keep the leadership of the General Assembly fully apprised of budget requests and recommendations. Additionally, I have invited the legislative leadership to address comments and recommendations on the budget to me directly or through Mr. Slicher. It should also be remembered that this particular Legislature is already better informed on budgetary matters than any of its predecessors because of the creation of the new Department of Fiscal Services.

2. All members of my staff have been instructed to inventory and evaluate all work in progress and pressing matters under consideration. These reports will be presented to my successor and should prove of inestimable value in assuring the continuity of government.

3. The members of my legislative staff have been instructed to complete work on all legislative proposals under consideration and the principal portions of this will be submitted to my successor.

4. Members of my staff and heads of principal departments will be instructed to cooperate with legislative leaders in furnishing any information or briefings which may be desired to inform the legislative leadership of all matters of primary concern.

5. Upon the election of my successor, members of my staff will be made available, if requested, to assist in transitional matters.

In my judgment as Governor, reached after careful evaluation of the public interest, these steps will best bring about the orderly transition of government.