

tion to posterity, for it has been developed to safeguard the health, livelihood and recreational opportunities for future generations of Maryland citizens.

At the same time, I would be remiss if I did not express my pride in the Air Quality Control bill prepared by members of the General Assembly and enacted during the first year of this administration.

Now I would like to turn to the 1970 Budget, which takes into account another crisis and another set of hard decisions. According to the Board of Revenue Estimates report submitted to me on December 17, 1968, Maryland, without major alteration in its revenue receipts policy, would face an estimated deficit exceeding \$33 million at the close of the 1969 fiscal year. In addition to this deficit, budget requests considered only in terms of essential minimums would compound the fiscal crisis.

The 1970 Budget, as it now stands, reflects my desire to provide the citizens of Maryland and my successor with a blueprint that is both financially sound and responsive to basic needs. To achieve this goal, I have remained in office until presumably reliable revenue estimates were available to form the basis of final judgments.

It would be unfair and unwise to place the new Governor and the Legislature in a bind by presenting a budget begging for a deficit or crippled by austerity slashes. In this situation, complicated by the \$33 million plus deficit, I did what best I could. I provided a *balanced budget* which gives my successor the full options of gubernatorial leadership.

This was achieved by first accepting the recommendation of the Board of Revenue Estimates to transfer the credit of April to June 1969 income tax receipts from the first quarter of fiscal 1970 to the last quarter of fiscal 1969 and pursuing this policy in all years hereafter. In addition, June receipts from the Retail Sales and Use taxes will also be counted as revenues in the 1969 fiscal year.

Consequently, instead of facing a deficit of more than \$33 million at the close of fiscal 1969 we should have an approximate surplus of \$45.5 million. But it can never be forgotten that this \$79 million transfer is a one-time bonus. That has not been forgotten in the disciplined 1970 Budget, which assures the continuity of virtually every program and service presently operated by the State. Growth at existing program levels required a General Fund increase of almost \$85 million over appropriations for the current fiscal year.