

mittee's recommendations and the reasons therefore.

In recent days the question period has sometimes gotten more into a debate or a colloquy than a question period. Please keep in mind that the period for questioning the committee chairman is designed to allow questions only for the purpose of clarification.

Do not ask questions for debate, please. You will have time for that during the debate portion.

Delegate Sherbow.

DELEGATE SHERBOW: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen of the Committee: I cannot think of a subject with less sex appeal than budget and appropriations, but I cannot think of a subject that is more important to the welfare of the State of Maryland and its people.

I am one of those in this room along with Governor Tawes and Judge Child who can remember when the budget of the State was less than \$50 million. Today the budget is over a billion dollars and is ever growing.

This is a matter of extreme importance to every citizen and while these items may seem as dry as dust, they are to be considered very carefully. Again as I reminded you yesterday, throughout this area, and it is our last report, you will find words of art. They have legal meaning to the legislature, they have meanings that sometimes are not exactly what you would use in colloquial expressions, but they are not lightly to be tossed aside, because of the meanings that they have acquired over the years.

As you know, Maryland has adopted the executive budget. It is its great claim of distinction in the field of fiscal administration and management. It came about because prior to 1917 the creation of our budget was in the nature of a harum-scarum thing.

The legislature made appropriations, the governor made suggestions, and when the session was at its end, no one could tell whether the State had provided for more expenditures than its income or had not.

As time went on and the legislature met every two years it developed that as usual, they were arranging to spend more money than they were taking in, and the era of a deficit budget was in existence.

Out of this kind of bad fiscal management, came the determination to straighten

this out and as has been the practice in Maryland, our State called upon its citizens to come to its aid in the form of a commission to make a study of this entire problem.

The commission at that time was headed up by the illustrious Dr. Goodnow, President of Johns Hopkins University and out of his report has grown the executive budget as we know it today.

In its very simplified form, it provides that the governor of Maryland shall find out how much the State needs in order to put through the programs that the legislature provides for and how much money the State needs to put through the programs that he thinks the state ought to provide for.

It is his job also to find out what are the sources of revenue, when is the money coming in, where it is coming from, and then make sure that he does not ask for appropriations that are greater than the amount of money that is in sight.

In those days they had a lot more courage and maybe clairvoyance than we have today, because in those days the legislature met every two years. It met in January and the budget would go into effect July 1st for the next two years, so you can see the legislature and the governor had to be smart enough to figure not only what the income they would have would be, but what the outgo would be for a period of nearly two and a half years in advance.

That has been changed as a result of another commission study of which I was the chairman which provided that we should have a session of the General Assembly every year.

It is now a matter of course. You all accept it. There are no restrictions. The General Assembly meets, and with the provisions of the legislative article that you already approved, it is perfectly clear now that the General Assembly will meet every year, not only for the consideration of the budget, but for all other matters which properly comes before it.

But back in those days the budget had to be predicted far in advance. At that time the studies that continued to be made were made by department heads and out of this ultimately grew what was a Department of Budget.

It so happened that attached to this department was the Department of Procurement, which is not of any concern of ours