

budgets for the various departments total approximately one-fourth of this anticipated surplus, the only thing necessary will be a book-keeping adjustment that will transfer the required amount from surplus for use during the remaining months of the fiscal year.

As the bill providing for the specific allotments to the various departments will be presented to you today, it is not necessary to go into detail here concerning the allotments. Suffice it to say that even after adequate provision is made for all unexpected requirements, there will be a substantial unencumbered surplus remaining in excess of \$12,000,000 at the year's end, including the working fund of \$2,000,000.

After these emergency requirements have been provided, the members of your Body can well take pride in the fact that, at the end of your terms, the State will be vastly better off financially than was the case eight, or even four, years ago.

In addition to the projected surplus as already outlined, there is on hand in the State Treasury another \$7,750,000 in the post-war construction fund. At the same time, it must be remembered that the State's bonded indebtedness, which was more than \$48,000,000 in 1939, is now reduced to \$18,750,000.

In view of the season and the fact that a number of the members of your Body will convene here in regular session next Wednesday, I think it extremely likely that you will find it possible to transact the business of this session in short order. The necessary bills are in readiness and the information on which to base action is readily available.

Assuring you of my willingness and desire to work closely with you, to the end that the State's business may be transacted with the utmost dispatch, and wishing you all the joys of the Christmas Season and all possible happiness and prosperity in the New Year, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

HERBERT R. O'CONNOR, *Governor.*

*Which was read.*

#### MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

BY THE SENATE.

By Senator Funk:

ANNAPOLIS, MD., December 27, 1946.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:*

We have received your message notifying the Senate of the organization of your Honorable Body, and proposing the appointment of