

mission has devoted much time and work in the performance of its delegated duty.

I recommend this report and the accompanying Bill to your Honorable Body for your prompt and favorable consideration.

Respectfully,

EMERSON C. HARRINGTON,
Governor.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY ON A
BUDGET SYSTEM.

The platform of the party to which this Commission owes its existence provided, among other things, as follows:

“We pledge the adoption of what is known as the budget system. The basis of the system shall be a report made either by the Governor or by the Board of Public Works to the Legislature of the estimated income of the State during the succeeding two years, together with recommendations as to the appropriations or expenditures to be made for all purposes during the same period of time. The Legislature may reduce or eliminate the items for appropriations or expenditures (except when this would affect the State’s outstanding obligations), but shall not increase the same, and no appropriations shall be expended for any purpose other than the purpose specified in the budget. Proper provision shall be made for emergencies or contingencies.

“Until the budget system can be made effective, we pledge the Democratic members of the Legislature to keep the expenses of the State within the income of the State, and the Governor to exercise his veto power for the same purpose.

“In connection with the budget system, we favor the adoption of a uniform fiscal year for all State officers and departments and for all institutions receiving State aid. We recommend that all continuing appropriations be repealed and that hereafter all appropriations shall be included in two general appropriation Bills—one for each of the two fiscal years intervening between the adjournment of one Legislature and the convening of the next.

“The Commission created by the first plank of this platform shall be charged with the duty of devising and recommending a detailed plan for the budget system.”

It will be noted that the platform provides for a budget system prepared by the Governor or the Board of Public Works, the items of which can be reduced or eliminated, but not increased, by the Legislature.