



THEODORE R. McKELDIN



1. Have you any specific plans for effecting economies in State expenses? If so, what are they?

A.—Economies have been effected in this administration through the program budget system, improved purchasing procedure, uniform inventory procedures and controls, and Central Payroll System. These procedures shall effect further economies as they are improved constantly by experience and practice. Also, each department is instructed by me at the beginning of each fiscal year to avoid waste and practice the utmost economy in operation.

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2. If State expenditures increase, do you favor raising the money by (a) increasing real estate taxes, (b) increasing the sales tax, (c) increasing the income tax rate, (d) imposing new taxes, (e) or do you favor some other plan?

A.—It is my hope that expenditures will not increase beyond the demands of a rapidly growing population, and that the revenues from taxes paid by that increasing population at existing rates will meet the demands. I have, therefore, considered no increase in existing tax rates. Neither have I considered any new taxes. However, I have a commission now studying the entire question of State finances.

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3. Do you favor any changes in the State roads plans as now outlined?

A.—I have no specific changes in mind for that excellent program. We must, of course, always be prepared to make some changes, which might be indicated by changing conditions as the program progresses. No long-range program for roads or anything else should be absolutely rigid. Indeed, the Legislature has provided for quadrennial reviews of the program. In the main, however, I believe the program will be carried out to its completion as originally written after extensive study.

4. Have you any specific plans for improving:

a. The State's school system?

A.—Not specific at the moment, because the question is under thorough study by the Green Commission on Public Education and Finance which I appointed. I have another commission studying the whole question of the State debt. Its report will have a bearing on the extent of the State's participation in future construction of greatly needed new school buildings.

b. Penal system?

A.—We have made extensive progress in this field. Greater responsibility given to prison administrators; reorganization of the Department of Parole and Probation which takes more prisoners out of institutions and keeps them under official supervision. New construction has been completed, placed under contract or planned to relieve overcrowding in existing institutions. Plans to provide more work for prisoners now under study. Also under study are subjects relating to the education of prisoners, their work habits, physical and mental weaknesses, and other matters aimed at better fitting the prisoners for future freedom.

c. Hospitals and mental institutions?

A.—Chronic disease, tuberculosis and mental health programs already have progressed extensively in this administration. Work to start soon on third of our chronic disease hospitals at Hagerstown. Administration opened one in Baltimore. Other operating on Eastern Shore. Tuberculosis hospital operation and treatment improvement to continue. Training and research programs in mental disease hospitals, which have attracted nation-wide attention, will be stepped up continuously.

5. What will you do toward achievement of equalization in real property assessments?

A.—This question under study by both State Tax Commission and, as it affects school financing, the Green Commission. Expect reports and formulation of proposed legislation prior to next convening of Legislature.

6. Do you favor increasing Baltimore city's representation in the State Legislature? If so, how?

A.—Yes, I favor increasing representation of Baltimore city and some of the larger counties. I believe the question should be considered and acted upon primarily in a Constitutional Convention.