

# A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

This week, I sent to the General Assembly a proposed 1969-70 State budget designed to accomplish two major objectives:

—To make certain that the people of Pennsylvania are not underserved, and

—To make certain that they are not overtaxed.

Consider at the outset who it is that receives the services, how many lives will be influenced by the proposals if adopted.

There are today some 2.3 million school children, their families and the 100,000 public

school teachers who understand the importance of this budget to them. That's one-quarter of our population. And the families and teachers pay taxes.

Our commitment to the improvement of basic education is reflected in the fact that for the first time the State will pick up half the bill for public education if Legislature approves the one billion, fifty-three million dollars (\$1,053 billion) I recommended. Also included is a crash education program for the ghetto and

rural poverty areas of our Commonwealth where children need special help if they are to learn enough to meet modern challenges.

From the school children we turn to the 239,000 students, their families and the 29,000 professors in our Commonwealth System of Higher Education. Among them are some of the 145,000 in both public and private colleges and universities who are receiving scholarship and loan assistance from us. Their families and professors pay taxes, and the students soon will, at a rate that will reflect higher incomes because we helped them get a higher education.

They know the importance of the \$352 million for higher education recommended in this year's budget.

Every taxpayer and citizen knows the need for making new and effective efforts to combat crime, prevent consumer fraud and providing for a modern system of criminal justice in our courts and in our correctional institutions. The \$30 million I am recommending in this area is absolutely essential if these programs are to be effective.

I know there are few, if any, who do not recognize with compassion the needs of those citizens afflicted with mental illness or the injury of retardation. But we feel the pain far less than the families of the 42,000 patients in our mental hospitals and institutions for the mentally retarded and the 41,000 who await the benefits of our new Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program.

That is why I have recommended an increase of \$33 million for our mental hospitals and \$17 million for our community mental health and retardation centers, which will bring our total effort in this most needed service to \$200 million.

I need not remind you that some citizens have asked that much more be spent in this area immediately. Certainly, we should consider the priority of that request.

From the mentally ill and retarded, we turn to those citizens who need medical and health care and have nowhere to turn

but to the State. There are one million seeking this aid, and I recommended we provide \$70 million for this assistance — a small increase over this year's expenditure.

The \$232 million recommended for our public assistance program will help 303,000 children, their parents or guardians and 85,000 aged, blind and disabled citizens maintain a minimum level of decency recommended in the Woodbury Report.

There is not one taxpayer in this Commonwealth that doesn't have a vital stake in our programs to improve our health and the environment — programs which total \$534 million. This money will be spent to help us clean pollution from the water we drink, the air we breathe and the land on which we live, work and play.

Along with this expenditure I recommend we provide \$65 million to help our urban dwellers—(who represent four out of every five Pennsylvanians)—solve the problems they face in deteriorating neighborhoods, hard core unemployment, housing and code enforcement, urban planning and renewal.

Included also are \$131 million for the improvement of mass transportation and to develop the high speed Keystone Corridor. This corridor will be the new backbone of Pennsylvania's economic growth — a growth that is vital to all communities no matter what size, or where they are located in the Commonwealth.

This corridor, linked to our rapidly-expanding system of highways, will keep us in the key position as the hub State between the East Coast and the industrial Great Lakes Region.

To assure the continuation of our record-breaking highway construction program, I am recommending, in the highway fund section of this budget, that we increase expenditures to one billion, six million dollars (\$1,006 billion), including our proposed plan to eliminate safety hazards.

Add them all up and you'll see why I am persuaded by the words John Gardner spoke as he left his Federal post as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. He said:

"I believe that history will not deal kindly with a rich Nation that will not tax itself to cure its own miseries."

It costs about \$7,200 to get a loaded B-47 jet bomber off the

## Snack Foods Not New

In 1610, a monk in Italy baked a snack — pretzels — for his pupils as a reward for good school work, according to Harold Neigh, Penn State extension consumer economics specialist. In 1621, an Indian chief brought a snack — popcorn — to the first Thanksgiving dinner, and in 1854, a chef in New York City cooked up a new snack — potato chips — by accident. Now snack making is a big business and snacks for the family take their share of the food budget.

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