

150 YEARS AGO, THIS CHILD WOULD BE COMMITTING A CRIME.

There was a time in the United States before the Civil War when some people had no rights. It was even a crime for them to read or write. Today, it's a crime if they don't. Now, with State aid to education, the opportunity to learn is boundless. One of our important resources of learning and education is our public libraries.

In 1985 public education agencies will spend 37 cents of each General Fund dollar, 25 cents of which is budgeted to the State Department of Education. This Department administrates the Public Library Program, the State Library Network and the Division of Library Development and Services.

The Maryland State Board of Education has also provided the leadership and helped greatly expand the range of services available to citizens with special needs. Most hearing impaired residents of Maryland now have access to the public library through a teletype. Aging residents in many counties receive a regular library service through such programs as Anne Arundel County's Care-A-Van. Unemployed citizens in Baltimore City and Garrett County can receive job and career information from the public library. Blind residents of the state receive materials from the library for the blind and physically handicapped, and handicapped children in Montgomery County use the Department of Libraries' Microcomputer to meet their special needs. All of these services would not be possible without contributions from the General Fund.*

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MARTIN M. PUNCKE, DIRECTOR

*The Maryland State Lottery contributed over $209 million to the State General Fund in fiscal year 1984

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