

HOUSE No. 2429

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, May 7, 1941.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

The Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety has submitted to me the estimates of the sums necessary to conduct its activities for the current biennium. This amounts to \$207,139.70 for the period from June 1st to December 1st, 1941 and \$321,314 for the period from December 1st, 1941 to December 1st, 1942. The safety and security of the people of Massachusetts depends upon the extent to which we may be able to prepare ourselves for any eventuality growing out of the serious and daily more threatening international situation. However much we may all hate the prospect, we cannot escape the conclusion that our country faces the possibility of war and that such a development may bring to our people many critical and dangerous days.

You and I and all of those upon whose shoulders the burden of government rests would not be faithful to our trust if we failed to take every necessary step to guard our people and their property against any eventuality. This much at least we must have learned from the terrible tragedy of Europe. Towards this end you and I have already taken an important step in the creation of a Committee on Public Safety composed of citizens of wide experience and deep devotion to the heavy task that has been laid upon them. It is a matter of pride to us all that these individuals who, incident-

tally, answered the call to the public service, are giving unreservedly, without any compensation, of their time and effort. They have no inducement, directly or indirectly, to make unnecessary expenditures. I am sure that the people of Massachusetts have confidence in their judgment.

Already the Committee has made large progress in the direction of organizing the Commonwealth for any emergency. With limited funds it has made astonishing headway in an effort with which America has had no previous experience. With my complete approval, the Committee has made plans for the future with which it cannot proceed until it knows what funds will be available. The time may even now be all too short. We must not repeat the disasters which followed unpreparedness abroad. We must safeguard Massachusetts with every means at our command. The detailed estimates of the cost of doing what we need to do speak for themselves.

I have sent a detailed statement to the Ways and Means Committee of your honorable bodies. I hereby recommend that you appropriate, as a part of your general budget now pending before you for 1941, the sum of \$207,139.70 for the Committee on Public Safety and for the fiscal year commencing on December 1, 1941, the sum of \$321,314. In these difficult times it is impossible to foresee what may happen many months ahead. For this reason I recommend that the appropriation for the second fiscal year for this Committee be made subject to the approval of the Governor and Council. You may deem it wise to make the appropriation for this fiscal year also subject to the approval of the Governor and Council. I do not, however, urge this upon you.

We all pray that the complete organization of our resources to cope with disaster may never be used but if the need comes and we are not ready we could not then forgive ourselves nor would we ever be forgiven.

With every assurance that the funds appropriated will be used wisely and economically in the public welfare, action upon these recommendations with the current budget is imperative.

Very respectfully yours,

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL,
Governor of the Commonwealth.

