Mr. President:

The procedure this year of your Ways and Means Committee relative to the General Appropriation Bill has been changed somewhat from that in former years, as I have explained in a previous statement. Your Committee believes that with the recommendations now made sufficient appropriations are provided to reasonably satisfy the State’s requirements for the efficient functioning of government.

General Fund.

Your Committee has given careful consideration to the needs of several departments for small increases in their appropriations. The General Appropriation Bill (House, No. 1800), as reported into the House, carried total appropriations of $52,148,353.97 from the General Fund. The bill as it comes from the House shows a net increase of $340,336 by amendments. Recommendations made by your Committee carry a further increase of $65,740, making a total amount of $52,554,429.97 required from the General Fund. Should the Senate adopt these recommendations, there would re-
main a reserve of $713,663.64 for the supplementary budget, based upon the plan of His Excellency the Governor for financing the 1938 budget.

All changes by amendment made in the bill have been considered by your Committee, and hearings have been granted to certain department heads. The items recommended for increase are as follows:

*Item 124.* — The sum of $4,000 has been included for the expense of maintaining an aero squadron. This item was stricken out by the House, but it is the belief of your Committee that the functioning of the National Guard would be seriously handicapped without the same support by state appropriation as in former years.

*Item 172.* — The appropriation for expenses of the State Planning Board has been increased $3,000 in order that the functioning of the Board with relation to local planning boards may not be curtailed through lack of money for printing.

*Item 173.* — Your Committee believes that $30,000 should be added to the appropriation for personal services of the State Racing Commission in order that the Commission may give proper and reasonable supervision at the race tracks during racing days. This increase will leave the appropriation $10,000 less than was recommended by His Excellency the Governor.

*Item 174.* — The appropriation for expenses of the State Racing Commission has been increased $3,000 for similar reasons.

*Item 310.* — This item has been increased $3,000, which will provide funds for the construction of certain fishways that have been considered by certain committees of the General Court.

*Item 316.* — The appropriation for expenses of the Division of Banks has been increased $4,000 in order that the work of making necessary examinations of banking institutions will not be curtailed by lack of money for travel.

*Item 320.* — The appropriation for personal services of the Division of Insurance has been increased $9,500
largely to provide adequate assistance in the supervision of municipal pension systems.

**Item 341.** — The appropriation for the administrative payroll of the Department of Education has been increased $1,740, which will permit the re-employment of an old employee of the department as Supervisor of Art Education.

**Item 360.** — An increase of $4,200 has been included for personal services of the University Extension service, which will make more adequate provision for the service, and it is believed that this amount will be fully covered by increased revenue.

**Item 390.** — The appropriation for the maintenance of the State Teachers' College at Hyannis has been increased $3,300 to make possible the efficient operation of a course recently established at the college for the teaching of physical education.

**HIGHWAY FUND.**

Your Committee is impressed with the large number of unemployed and believes that as a measure of relief the needs for better roads to handle the ever-increasing volume of traffic warrant increases in several items of this budget. The total increases recommended by your Committee amount to $5,106,000. This will leave an unappropriated balance in the Highway Fund of over $4,000,000, which, in accordance with the custom of previous years, will be disposed of in connection with the consideration of the supplementary budget just previous to prorogation.

**Item 653.** — Your Committee recommends an increase in Item 653, for what is known as chapter 90 work, of $1,950,000. The requests from cities and towns this year for work under this chapter far exceed the amount which has been approved by the other branch; and with the need for employment throughout the Commonwealth, and in order to make available to the cities and towns additional funds to carry out chapter 90 work, the amount recommended by your Committee will be neces-
sary. If the amounts under this item remain as approved by the other branch, a reduction of from 35 per cent to 40 per cent in allotments to cities and towns for chapter 90 work will be necessary. The total recommended for this item by your Committee is $4,650,000.

Item 654. — You Committee recommends an increase in Item 654, for aiding small towns under chapter 81, of $25,000, in order to provide for two additional towns which become eligible for aid under the new triennial apportionment for city and town valuation.

Item 655. — Your Committee recommends an increase in Item 655 of $1,250,000, to provide adequately for maintenance of state highways. Your Committee recommends that the appropriation under this item be made as a lump sum, as has always been done heretofore. The Department of Public Works should not be hampered or hindered by a maze of red tape, and your Committee therefore recommends that this item be further amended by striking out the proviso contained therein, making a total recommended under this item of $3,900,000.

Item 656. — Your Committee recommends an increase in Item 656, for the construction of state highways, of $1,750,000, in order that the Department of Public Works may match Federal funds that are available to the Commonwealth for work under this item and to provide for engineering costs and land damages. This will permit the carrying out of an adequate program and will make the total under this item $4,425,000.

Item 656A. — Your Committee has considered this item and believes that in its present form it cannot be operated to any practical advantage, and we accordingly recommend that the item be stricken out of the bill and increased work on roads, under State supervision, be substituted.

Metropolitan Districts.

Item 700. — For the maintenance of metropolitan parkways and boulevards an amendment is recommended by your Committee changing the phraseology
of the item so that funds may be used for the installation of new traffic lights, and increasing the amount $6,000 to cover the estimated requirement.

Item 701A. — A new item, recommended to provide for substantial repairs to the structure and pavement of the Neponset River bridge. Your Committee considered an exhaustive engineering report and believe that a sum of $125,000 should be inserted for this purpose, payable from the Highway Fund.

Metropolitan District Commission.

Item 719. — Your Committee recommends an increase of $2,340 to cover certain adjustments, including an increase to $10,000 in the allotment for improvements at the Charles River Golf Course.

Item 719A. — Your Committee recommends the insertion of a new item to cover the cost of repairing damages to a sea wall caused by a recent storm. Its recommendation of $40,000 it believes will repair the damages and also provide for the construction of certain stone laterals, which will help to prevent erosion along the shore.

Item 728. — Your Committee recommends that the appropriation for the Metropolitan Planning Board be increased in the sum of $9,950. This will provide money to pay full services for the entire fiscal year. Without this increase the work of the Commission would terminate on June 1st, and might lead to serious complications. Any pending legislation which might be passed might require further adjustment at the time of the supplementary budget.

Item 729. — For the maintenance of the Nantasket Beach Reservation your Committee recommends an increase of $1,770, required as an adjustment on account of the contingent expenses of the police.

The Committee has undertaken to recognize the various needs of the State service and trusts its work will meet with your approval.