

to adjust to the program, had a profoundly disturbing affect upon children committed to the training schools for long time re-training and treatment period."

In 1954, the Baltimore Council of Social Agencies reported to the State Board on the detention needs in the State of Maryland, and strongly urged that steps be taken to provide the courts and the State with adequate detention and study facilities. It said that the practice of detaining children in the training schools was making the rehabilitation program for the committed children less effective. Responding to the pleas of the courts, the training school officials and to the various commissions, and following the recommendations of the Baltimore Council of Social Agencies, the Maryland General Assembly in 1956 appropriated \$525,000 for the construction of the Maryland Children's Center which we dedicate today. The Legislature subsequently appropriated funds for equipment and furnishings for the center and operational funds.

In 1958, the Maryland General Assembly enacted a law which placed the Maryland Children's Center under the administrative control of the State Department of Public Welfare. Within the last few days it has been my privilege to appoint the nine-member Advisory Board for the Center. For membership on this Advisory Board, headed by Dr. Peter Lejins, I have selected some of Maryland's most outstanding citizens, some of whom are experts and all of whom are deeply concerned with this problem of delinquent children.

This 1958 Act, which met with the approval of the judges of the State, bearing responsibility for juvenile problems, provides also that the Maryland Children's Center shall accept from courts of proper jurisdiction children who are judged delinquent. It requires the Center to provide a program of residential care and study, and states that within 30 days after admission, every child detained must be returned for study to the court of jurisdiction with proper recommendations as to final disposition by the court. Of the approximate 1,000 children a year passing through the State training schools on detention, 15 per cent later are committed to the training schools for long term institutional care. It is believed that a substantial percentage of the children studied here at this institution will require care in the State training schools. For certain other children, the courts will decide upon probation supervision, while other children may be placed in public or foster homes or institutions. An extremely small percentage of children may be released from the jurisdiction of the court. The authorized capacity of this institution is 56 beds. Since the training schools carry an average of 90