

state, local and Federal governments were pioneered. Air monitoring stations throughout the State's urban and industrial areas were established. These stations were at once unfortunately and fortunately situated so that the content of Maryland's air registered a bleak picture. Located in primarily industrial rather than residential centers, the results of air monitoring in Baltimore City revealed that the City would require a two-to-fourfold reduction of air pollutants to meet new Federal standards set as a result of the Clean Air Act of 1963. As I noted, the location of these stations marked the coalescence of fortunate and unfortunate factors. In the interest of pure industry, there is little question that the totally industrialized sites were poor choices; in the interest of pure air I cannot think of better ones. For the dismal results stimulated almost unanimous legislative support of Maryland's new Air Quality Control law: a law that is so progressive and substantial that it has been termed "excellent" by Federal air pollution officials and, I understand, is being considered for distribution as a "model law" by Federal authorities.

What makes this legislation so singular and significant? In the first place it incorporates a major change in public policy for the control of air quality, and in the mechanism which is established for that purpose.

It contains a clear and unqualified statement of public policy: "the policy of the State of Maryland shall be to maintain that degree of purity of the air resources of the State which will protect the health, general welfare and property of the people of the State." A vast improvement over the extensively qualified legislation which it replaced — a measure couched in vague and ambiguous terms requesting cooperation and requiring persuasion which virtually begged for evasion.

It assigns full responsibility for air quality to the State Department of Health and by vesting this authority in the Health Department dramatizes the lethal potential of air pollution, the solemn intent to vigorously supervise the quality of our State's air and enforce this statute to its legal limits to protect our citizens' health.

The Air Quality Control Bill provides a clear and unequivocal definition of air pollution that includes emergency cover conditions which are predicted with reasonable certainty, as well as actual conditions. "Air pollution shall mean the presence in the outdoor atmosphere of substances in quantities, having characteristics and being of a duration which from any single source or in combination with other sources, are or may be injurious to human, plant or animal life or to property,