

FOREWORD

On February 5, 1777, the Maryland Legislature met for the first time under a new *Declaration of Rights and Constitution and Form of Government* which had been adopted the previous November. In honor of the two hundredth anniversary of State government in Maryland Carleton "B" Hayek has incorporated pages from the manuscript draft of the Declaration and the printed *Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention* into the cover. The frontispiece facing the title page is taken from the Senate Journal of March 20, 1777 in which the election of Thomas Johnson, Jr. as the first Governor of the State of Maryland is proclaimed.

The contents of the 1977-1978 *Maryland Manual* have been redesigned to make it more accurately reflect the organization of State government under our present State constitution which was adopted in 1867. The *Maryland Manual* is the official handbook of the State. It contains an overview of State government, describing its purposes, programs, personnel, and costs. It reflects organizational and personnel changes since late 1975. It also contains a directory of county and Baltimore City officers as well as information on municipalities and unincorporated places.

The *Maryland Manual* is published every odd year by the State of Maryland. Copies are distributed without charge to the public libraries, agencies of state and county government, all school libraries, members and former members of the General Assembly, and others as prescribed by law (*Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland 1957, 1971 Replacement Volume*, Article 41, Sections 104-106). Additional copies are printed for sale to the general public and are available at the Hall of Records, Post Office Box 828, Annapolis, Maryland 21404 at \$6.00 each. Purchasers residing in Maryland without tax exempt status must also pay a sales tax of 4%.

The *Manual* could not have been compiled without the cooperation of many individuals and agencies to whom we owe our thanks. We are indebted to the Public Information Officers of each department of the State government as well as to Dr. Carl N. Everstine and his staff of the State Department of Legislative Reference for the essays on the General Assembly sessions of 1974, 1975 and 1976. Charts of State Government were prepared originally by Janet L. Hoffman, formerly of the Maryland Fiscal Research Bureau. We have revised them as required. William J. Jabine of the Department of Natural Resources, is responsible for "Maryland At A Glance" and Leon A. Rubenstein, Director of the Baltimore City Department of Legislative Reference, for the roster of officials of Baltimore. To the many Presidents, Clerks and Administrative Assistants to the Boards of County Commissioners and each County Executive, County Councils and their staffs, we extend special thanks for helping us with the county section. We are also grateful to the Maryland Municipal League for providing us with the names of city, town and village officers. We benefited from the collaboration of H. Stafford Bullen, Deputy Secretary of State and Margaret W. Lee, Chief Clerk of the Executive Department, who guided us through the Executive Department Files.

The staffs of the Democratic State Central Committee of Maryland and the Republican State Central Committee of Maryland furnished the names of their State officers and county central committee members.