

measures and, also, for better inspection of mine weights and measures. These proposals were strongly endorsed by organizations interested in Labor.

Concerning the public school system, there was enacted a law elevating the standards and improving the classification and salaries of teachers. The legislation dealing with the schools will have such a salutary effect that Dr. Albert S. Cook, State Superintendent, has described our work of the last three months as the most constructive and beneficial ever to be accomplished through legislation in our State.

Another progressive, forward-looking measure is the creation of the Legislative Council. I proposed this innovation during the campaign and it is now an accomplished fact. The plan provides for continuing consideration of legislation by selected leaders of the two branches of the General Assembly. They will meet at intervals between sessions to carry on the study of new proposals so that the General Assembly through this representative body will keep abreast of continually changing developments on every front. Then eventually, there will be ready for future Legislatures a well considered program evolved by their own representatives and ready for the entire membership when the sessions are begun.

Here again Maryland will now be among the leaders in the adoption of a system which will undoubtedly improve the quality of legislation and will give the elected representatives of the people a greater voice in the policies of the State government.

While time does not permit more than a passing reference to other worthwhile accomplishments of the Legislature, I might briefly mention the following:

Useless and unnecessary departments and jobs were eliminated by abolishing the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the office of the Commissioner of Loans, the Assistant Adjutant General and a change in the set-up of the Conservation Commission. Inasmuch as I discussed over the air several weeks ago this detail in the changes in the Conservation set-up, it is unnecessary to report them now.

A modernized system of medical examiners to replace the antiquated Coroner system has been accomplished. The removal of the State Director of Health from the Governor's appointive list and empowering the State Board of Health to appoint this important official on a non-political basis is another change which a recently enacted law makes effective and which is in keeping with my assurances during the campaign that politics would never be permitted to interfere with the functioning of the Health Department and the public schools.

In order to obtain the fullest benefits to those wards of the State who are confined in hospitals for the treatment of the mental ailments, an administration measure vesting the Board of Mental Hygiene with authority to coordinate the work of these institutions and authorizing interchange of patients was enacted. Increased efficiency will undoubtedly result from this change. It might also be noted that through a joint resolution an expression was adopted emphasizing the desirability of having women included in the membership of hospital boards.

Another change for the better is in the reorganization of the Veterans Commission which will result in the reduction of overhead expenses and will increase the amounts available for deserving veterans of our State.