

In the interest of our large colored population we have successfully provided for a Commission, the aim of which is to provide greater opportunities for colored people to secure college training and college educations. I am happy to report that these plans for the proposed Morgan State College contemplate the greatest outlay in this particular field ever made by Maryland in the interest of colored people.

Repeatedly during recent years we have heard much discussion as to the need of the State going forward in the matter of forestry and the development of parks and recreational areas. It is gratifying to say that through adequate provision in our bond issue bill the amounts have now been provided which will make possible the addition of vast areas from which our citizens will derive enjoyment, healthful pleasure at the same time saving the resources of our State.

The voting public was told during the last campaign that I had no desire to perpetuate myself in office. Through efforts of this administration, provision has been made to submit a constitutional amendment which would make it impossible for the Governor to succeed himself.

Needed improvements in the Election Laws were made at this session; measures were adopted broadening the scope of the Social Security legislation; authorization was given to the Court of Appeals to promulgate rules governing Court procedure; a Potomac River Commission has been created to handle questions affecting reciprocal rights of Maryland and Virginia; provision was made for a public school survey of our State and many other enactments are included in the total bills passed within the last 90 days.

After consideration of all of the accomplishments of the Legislature, without reservation, I make to the citizens of Maryland the following statement:

The General Assembly of 1939 has written upon the statute books of this State more sound and progressive legislation than has ever been enacted in one session in the history of Maryland.

Moreover, in this, the first of the two regular sessions during the term for which I have been elected, there has been fulfilled almost completely the platform pledges of the Democratic Party regarding legislation. The remaining pledges, the majority of which have to do with administrative features, will be fulfilled henceforth.

It is to be noted that the department heads of my administration will not take office until May 1st or thereafter. In making my appointments I intend to name the most capable persons whose services the State can secure. Included among those already named and in addition to Messrs. France and Hackney, previously referred to are: Lieutenant Colonel Beverly Ober, Dr. Maurice Pincoffs, Judge Rowland K. Adams, John E. Semmes, Mayor W. Lee Elgin of Hagerstown, Dr. George Finney, Herman M. Moser, Charles T. LeViness, Delano Ames and others.

Before concluding I wish to accord a tribute to the members of the General Assembly for their conscientious and dutiful service. In this I include the members of the minority Party who, in many instances, disregarded party considerations in supporting what they considered best for the State.

The work of the Legislature was ably assisted by the intelligent and helpful efforts of the Attorney General and his staff.