

when we earn the gratitude of the general public, I pledge myself to avoid the injection of political considerations in the conduct of State affairs, as illustrated by these two noteworthy examples.

Along with the problem of cutting down expenses, and so reducing to a minimum the amounts that must be raised by new or increased taxes, is that of strengthening the operation of the Budget amendment in order to provide for those procedural and administrative matters suggested by that amendment itself. Laws should be enacted specifically to provide for the form in which budgetary details are presented to the General Assembly, the control of budgetary changes, limitations upon contingent or cushion funds, and other matters essential to the efficient operation of the system and to the effective supervision of the budget by both the Governor and the General Assembly.

The law puts upon the Governor the duty and the responsibility of submitting the budget to the appropriating body. At the very outset, the incoming Governor is faced with this major problem at a time when other matters of importance must also be considered. I trust that the Legislature, in considering the changes I have outlined, and which are pledged by our Party, will also consider the advisability of creating a budget bureau to assist the Governor in this work. Such a bureau, staffed with trained personnel, ought to be a continuing one and not only assist in the preparation of the budget for submission to the Legislature, but keep in touch with the various State departments and agencies, familiarizing itself with their needs and also checking on their expenditures. Such a bureau would systematize the whole budget plan and tend to make it more efficient and orderly.

I should now like to make known my views with respect to the Judiciary. No single fact has been impressed upon me more forcibly than the necessity of having the judiciary function without outside interference. I am sure that we agree that a State is fortunate whose courts are administered by high-minded judges, incorruptible, learned, and experienced. My policy shall be always to assist in securing the very best judges and in having them function unhampered and uninfluenced in the discharge of their important duties.

Maryland is justly proud of its higher courts and the illustrious line of judges who have brought distinction and honor to Maryland. It seems timely, however, to point out that methods might be devised to avoid the possibility of future election of judges being thrown into political contests. The administration will support well considered plans to prevent such an occurrence.

While we all refer with pride to the functioning of our higher courts, frankness and candor require the statement that criticism and adverse comment concerning the minor courts have been justifiable. It serves no useful purpose to attempt here to prove shortcomings by referring to specific cases. What is more in point is the need for the improvement of the system under which the Justices of the Peace must operate.

The fee system by which Justices of the Peace are compensated has brought about many abuses and a sort of degeneration. As a result there have been many cases of what might be termed "justice at a price."

To remedy fully the evils of this system requires an amendment to the Constitution, which I shall ask the General Assembly to submit to the people. The system as it stands was written into our Constitution decades ago. Whatever its merits in the old days, the system has outlived its usefulness and become archaic. The sooner we get rid of it the better.