

1 our schools to revert to their pre-1916 status. Then,
2 they were rife with political control and we had, in fact,
3 no statewide, adequate program of public education in
4 Maryland.

5 An act of the General Assembly in 1914, Chapter
6 844, created a Commission to make "a comprehensive study
7 of the public school system of the State of Maryland, of
8 the State-aided elementary and secondary schools, and the
9 higher education institutions of the State of Maryland,
10 with a view to correlating and coordinating the different
11 institutions wholly or partially supported by State
12 appropriations."

13 Prior to the enactment of Chapter 844, the
14 governor of Maryland sat as a member of the State Board
15 of Education. The governor also appointed the State
16 Superintendent of Schools. Members of local boards of
17 education administered the schools on an election-ward
18 basis. Each member approved the appointment of the teacher
19 bought the coal for the pot-bellied stove, and placed the
20 orders for textbooks and other supplies for the school in
21 his election district on a political patronage basis.