

The present law has been in operation for two years and there seems to be no valid reason for making a change at this time. I have, therefore, vetoed this bill.

STATE SONG.

Chapter 182, Senate Bill 9, was introduced for the purpose of formally adopting and legalizing "Maryland, My Maryland" as the state song.

I see nothing to be gained by such legislation. This song has, for many years, been played and will continue to be played as long as it appeals to the people, irrespective of legislation on the subject.

TAKOMA PARK.

Chapter 485, Senate Bill 299, amends the Charter of Takoma Park generally.

I have received numerous protests against the proposed changes in the Charter and since no referendum is provided in the bill, I have vetoed it.

TEACHERS' OATH.

Chapter 404, House Bill 498, requires all teachers in the public schools, colleges and universities, supported in whole or in part by the State or any sub-division of the State, to take the oath of allegiance to the United States.

I take it that the real objective of the Legislature was to prevent the dissemination of propaganda contrary to the principles of our form of constitutional government. As I view it, the bill totally fails of its purpose. It does not prescribe a definite oath. While a teacher is disqualified from teaching, there is no penalty for one who takes the oath and then breaks it. There is no penalty upon the school that connives at the failure to take the oath or in the violation of it after it has been taken. There is no provision for withholding the State appropriation from any State-aided institution which is not living up to the letter and spirit of the law. Therefore, I have concluded that, in its present form, it becomes but a futile declamation of loyalty. To the loyal this is unnecessary; to the disloyal it is meaningless. To accomplish the purpose intended, that is, the safeguarding of our nation against insidious and destructive propaganda, such legislation should apply to all alike, and not transgress the provisions of the Constitution of the United States or that of Maryland. It should provide punishment sufficiently severe to act as a discouragement and deterrent. An ap-