



Heading for Annapolis

The first and only pause in Goldstein's government career came shortly after Pearl Harbor, when the 29-year-old legislator enlisted in the United States Marine Corps



Louis L. Goldstein served as President of the Maryland Senate from 1955-1959.
Photo by M.E. Warren

The Louis Goldstein political legend started in 1938, when the 25-year-old law school graduate ignored Democratic party officials who told him he was too young to run for office and launched a grass roots campaign for a Maryland House of Delegates seat representing his native Calvert County in rural southern Maryland. He sowed the seeds of victory by knocking on virtually every door in the county. When the votes were counted, Louis Lazarus Goldstein was headed for Annapolis.

The first - and only - pause in Goldstein's state government career came shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when the 29-year-old legislator enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. His service in the Pacific Theater included a stint on General Douglas MacArthur's staff investigating Japanese war crimes in the Philippine Islands after the war ended. Louis Goldstein resumed his political career with a victory in the 1946 state Senate election, the start of a 12-year career which included four years as

majority floor leader and four years as senate president.

But it was as comptroller, a job with statewide visibility and unique responsibilities, that Goldstein found his calling - and his job for life. Most state comptrollers handle accounting and payroll functions, but the Maryland comptroller does that and more, serving as state revenue commissioner, managing state government's largest data processing center that serves most state agencies, and regulating the sensitive alcoholic beverage, cigarette, and motor fuel industries. Maryland's comptroller also serves with the governor and state treasurer on the Board of Public Works, Maryland's highest administrative body, and as chair of the Board of Revenue Estimates, overseeing revenue tracking and forecasting. It's a huge job, one that Louis Goldstein tackled with what Marylanders would soon come to know as his trademark energy and enthusiasm. He won the first of ten elections to the post in 1958.