

plans, such as the promise of exceedingly large pensions, or weekly payments impossible of fulfillment.

A few minutes ago I said that I considered the calibre of appointees as one of the most important factors for a successful administration. This was a repetition of what had been asserted in my inaugural address. In making my appointments during the year, I attempted to prove that I meant what I said. Probably no branch of the government demanded the services of an outstanding and well-qualified executive more than the State Roads Commission for its Chairman. I selected Ezra B. Whitman, told him that his hands would be upheld in the effort to give Maryland the best system of roads that could be built. And we have backed up and supported him and his associates, W. Frank Thomas of Carroll County and P. Watson Webb of Dorchester, as well as the Chief Engineer, Wilson T. Ballard.

For the position of Chairman of the Conservation Commission I appointed Edwin Warfield and with him Robert S. Harrison of Talbot County and Allan J. Sollers of Charles County. As Chairman of the Department of Public Welfare, formulating policies for the handling of relief and social security appropriations, W. Wallace Lanahan was chosen, with a Board of outstanding citizens from various parts of the State to give attention to these vital matters affecting the less fortunate of our citizens.

For the important post of State Insurance Commissioner I was happy to secure the services of John B. Gontrum, and his successful work and his unanimous endorsement by all who have had business with his department is sufficient proof that no mistake was made. For the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City, with its difficult problems, I selected Charles T. LeViness, 3rd, Dr. J. L. Valentini and C. Delano Ames.

As the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles I procured the services of W. Lee Elgin, the former Mayor of Hagerstown, and as my appointee on the State Tax Commission, Dr. Thomas W. Koon, the former Mayor of Cumberland, was selected.

To head the State Police, I appointed Colonel Beverly Ober; on the State Game and Inland Fish Commission, W. Garner Denmead; as Chief Judge of the Traffic Court, Robert France, then President of the Bar Association; as Commissioner of Labor and Statistics, John N. Pohlhaus; as Chief Judge of the Juvenile Court, H. Hamilton Hackney, and as Administrator of Loans, former State Senator Mary Risteau. These capable officials are but a few of the many conscientious men and women who have been selected for service in the State Administration and whose appointment was a fulfillment of the pledge I made to secure dutiful and efficient officials.

Having referred to the State Roads Commission, one of the most important agencies of the State Government, let us report now as to its functioning. During the past year this Commission has reorganized and revitalized the maintenance and construction work in the different districts throughout the State, with marked improvement already apparent, and by visits of the Commission to the various Counties, has effected a closer cooperation with the Counties, with a consequent closer check upon, and cooperation in, the various County road programs for 1940.

The Commission completed the Ritchie Highway during the year, and has begun work on the final stretch of the new Philadelphia Road between Havre de Grace and Elkton, with the expectation that it will be completed during the