

matter what develops later concerning any measures before the General Assembly.

To give some idea of the topics that have been thoroughly discussed, I might mention the matter of State roads, where rights-of-ways, roadside beautification, access and egress roads, and many allied details have been delved into thoroughly, not only with the State Roads Commission but with all interested parties. The importance of such discussions is easily established when it is remembered that some millions of dollars of Federal funds for our highways were seriously jeopardized because our antiquated and ineffective right-of-way laws have permitted serious delays in starting proposed highway construction.

Policing of our State roads, and suggestions for making the State Police System more nearly adequate to the demands upon it, have been studied by the Council; desirable change in rules to help prevent legislative jams in the future have been drawn up, together with proposals for economies; a study has been made of the problem of local legislation, one of the major worries of former legislatures; the farmers of the State have had an opportunity to present a program for solving many of their problems; a survey has been made of installment selling in the State.

The matter of the elimination of almshouses, about which in former years people talked but did nothing, has been gone into thoroughly with a special commission and representatives of the various counties; more uniform laws for the transfer of real estate, and for providing bona fide titles for property bought at tax sales, will prove a great boon to another large portion of our residents.

The motorists of our State will be benefited if legislation to be recommended by the Council is adopted into law. This proposal calls for the adoption of permanent automobile tags in our State, which new system would make for much greater convenience to automobile owners in that they would not be compelled to procure new licenses each year. In addition, the proposed plan calls for the issuance of tags in the county seats, thus avoiding the congestion and inconvenience necessarily caused by the ordinary rush at the Automobile Commissioner's Office when the deadline approaches.

The important Conservation question, than which there is no more pressing problem, has been before the Council and the approaching Legislature will have the benefit of the discussion and research resulting from this consideration. Maryland has priceless possessions in her natural resources and it is our sacred obligation to have them safeguarded for the greatest betterment not only to the present but to future generations.

Because of the important nature of the questions involved, the Council has given the most thorough consideration to proposed legislation affecting the sale of fireworks in our State and proposals for State supervision of Building and Loan Associations, where so many of our citizens have their savings on deposit or invested.

During the period in which the Legislative Council has functioned, I am convinced that it has given clear evidence of its great possible and actual value to our State. The many, many hours of hearings, plus the additional days and weeks of research and fact-finding, should improve the quality of Legislation. I believe the people of Maryland can look forward to a session of the Legislature that should be most helpful to the State, and that should