

McKeldin Is Dry . . . So Are Legislative Palates

Annapolis.—Governor McKeldin is the first "dry" chief executive in Maryland's colorful history. He doesn't touch alcohol and that also means he doesn't serve it at the executive mansion.

This discovery was made on Inauguration Day.

Even during Prohibition, beverages of an intoxicating nature could be found in ample supply in the vicinity of the Governor's mansion—but not in 1951.

Some members of the Legislature are somewhat miffed. The members of the press, or at least some of them, are horrified. The prospect of four years in Annapolis with liquid entertainment at the mansion consisting of chocolate milk and soft drinks is enough to give many reason to pause—long enough, at least, to order another at some local bistro.

Carvel Hall Hotel, representatives of which have claimed that the mansion house in recent years has often curtailed the business at the hotel tap room, find themselves on the side of pro-prohibition lawmakers—all three of them—and local ministers applauding the Republican Governor's beverage views.

The only relief promised "the wets" seems to stem from legislative delegations who have rent-

ed homes in Annapolis for the session and are willing hosts to open house parties.

Of course, one Republican leader pointed out, Governor McKeldin will not be bothered so much with surprise visitations of political bosses calling at the mansion for "discussions" and a "little refreshment".

The beverage lobby, however, need not tremble for fear of a return to Prohibition. The Governor has no platform to enforce his own opinions on the subject on the people of the State.

"The worst of it is," said a Democratic Senator, "we'll have to buy our own. We certainly can't put up with dry palates. It would set a dangerous precedent."