

# NICE AWAITS U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN

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## Intimates State Should Follow Federal Program

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## GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO WELFARE GROUP

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## Miss Engle Attacks Old- Age Relief Methods In Counties

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Governor Nice last night intimated that social security legislation in Maryland should follow the adoption of similar legislation by the Federal Government.

At the close of an address before the Maryland State Conference of Social Welfare at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, he said:

"There is pending at present in Congress a bill to provide social security for the underprivileged people of the United States. The passage of this bill will have a profound effect on similar legislation in every State. Just as soon as this bill is enacted, Maryland will be in a position to determine its own course of action."

### Other Developments

Other significant developments at the conference, which held its sessions throughout the day, were:

Miss Lavinia Engle, director of welfare for Montgomery county, asserted that no such political exploitation can be found anywhere as in the administration of old-age relief by County Commissioners. Governor Nice advocated the enactment of all the important features of the social security program which the conference recommended. A resolution in which these recommendations were included was adopted unanimously by the conference.

Harry Greenstein, State Relief Administrator, outlined the provisions of a bill for the State-wide administration of relief.

administration of relief which will be introduced in the Legislature.

Simon E. Sobeloff, chairman of the Governor's Committee on Unemployment Insurance and Relief, urged the adoption of the social security bill, "whether Washington acts or not."

### County Methods Attacked

The commissioners of every county in the State are guilty of "political exploitation, political maneuvering and political alchemy" in their handling of the old-age relief problem, Miss Engle, a former member of the House of Delegates, told the 400 persons who attended the afternoon session of the conference.

"We need some appointed board, a professional group trained for social

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# SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN IS AWAITED

## Nice Intimates State Should Follow Federal Program

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work, to act between the political heads of the counties and the persons who require relief," she recommended as the remedy for the situation she described.

Continuing her remarks on provision for the care of the indigent aged, Miss Engle said:

"Our almshouses, like most almshouses throughout the country, are a complete disgrace to the communities in which they are maintained. They are especially deficient in the medical and nursing care they provide."

### Burden "Disproportionate"

In planning the future of relief for the aged, she asserted, the first problem to be settled was that of the disproportionate burden of some counties. Persons on relief, she said, have a tendency to move from county to county and to settle in the county where relief standards are highest. This causes controversy and disharmony among the counties and places an unjust tax on the county with high relief standards, she added.

Governor Nice's address anticipated the three major points of the resolution adopted by the conference, which had been prepared by its legislative committee, of which L. Edwin Goldman is chairman. The resolution declared that there should be an enlarged jurisdiction for the Board of State Aids and Charities, that schools of social work should be established and that a system of unemployment compensation should be provided.

### For Strong Organization

The Governor said:

"The necessity for a strong and efficient organization to administer this relief program and other social welfare activities is absolutely essential. While both Federal and State contributions have, thus far, been based on emergency, it is becoming increasingly evident that this emergency is no longer a temporary affair, but that the need for large public expenditures of money will continue for some years to come. It is, therefore, essential that we provide relief funds and adequate machinery to administer relief. . . .

"A State department of social welfare should be organized, the responsibility of which will be not only to administer unemployment relief but also other public welfare functions. . . . There should be instituted under this department local units in each of the counties and in the city."

### Favors Private Agencies

The Governor said also that "study should be given to an equalization plan such as already exists in the

plan, such as already exists in the public school system, so that the cost of the public welfare program would be borne by federal, state and local governments, in accordance with the ability of such local governments."

"It is of the utmost importance that nothing done by the State, in creating public welfare units, should interfere with the continuance and development of private agencies," he declared. The private agencies, he said, "have rendered notable service in the past and have a real contribution to make in the future."

He also assured the social workers that politics would not enter into the administration of the relief funds, and that this administration "will be entrusted entirely to qualified people, selected on the basis of merits, regardless of political background or partisan politics."

The relief units should render the following services to the community, he said: Relief to the unemployed, administration of old-age pensions, administration of mothers' assistance and care of neglected and delinquent children.

"We must not forget that in addition to meeting unemployment relief needs, the State also has the responsibility of taking care of other human needs. Merely to avoid starvation is not enough. The State also has a duty to its people in the broader field of public welfare."

#### Discusses Insurance

Mr. Sobeloff, speaking on "Unemployment Insurance for Maryland," reviewed the history of the unemployment insurance movement in this State, recalling that he was accused of being academic and radical for advocating such a measure two years ago. Now the necessity for such legislation is admitted on all sides, he said.

He urged that the bill be adopted here "whether Washington acts or not," and that it be "something adequate." It should not provide as its maximum relief the minimum provided by the Federal legislation, he remarked, adding: "If we are to be clubbed into action by Washington we are not going to make much progress."

#### Mayor Jackson Speaks

Mayor Jackson agreed that unemployment insurance was a paramount need and suggested that it should be paid for by the contributions of the national and state governments and by the contributions of both the employer and employe. He concluded:

"I promise my cooperation in getting Maryland to adopt a bill which will take care of this need until the national Government adopts such a plan."

One third of the social workers present were from the counties, a new record for State-wide cooperation in welfare work, Miss Anna D. Ward, who presided at the night meeting, pointed out. All except two counties were represented.

Mr. Greenstein outlined the provisions of a bill for the State-wide administration of relief which will be introduced in the Legislature. The foundation for a social welfare program in Maryland has been laid, he said and now the time has come for

gram in Maryland has been laid, he said, and now the time has come for the transition from the emergency and temporary phases of the program to a permanent State department of public welfare.