

by me to study the expansion of public higher education in Maryland. It was a highly profitable discussion of a plan to distribute State aid for education to local governments on a per-pupil basis rather than primarily through the minimum salary schedule for teachers. It is a challenging suggestion, and I have instructed members of my staff to hold further meetings with this group with the view to exploring it in all its details and ramifications. You may be assured that this proposal is being given my careful consideration.

It is gratifying to note that your Association has concerned itself with the expansion of our system of public higher education and that your committee on legislation has, in fact accepted the plan laid down by my commission, known as the Curlett Commission. It is to be noted here that Dr. Thomas G. Pullen, State Superintendent of Schools, served as a valuable member of this Commission.

As this commission pointed out so clearly, there is an urgent and immediate need in Maryland for increasing our facilities for public higher education. Enrollments, it emphasized, may be expected to double in the next ten years. I am sure that all of us are in agreement with the proposition made by the Commission that the economic development of our State, and even our survival as a nation, may well depend on the effort we make to upgrade the intellectual attainments and the skills of our population. And we can achieve this objective only by making available to the people the best possible facilities for education, from kindergarten through our colleges and universities. Our rivalry with the forces of international communism is essentially a competition for the minds of men—a competition of intellects and skills. And the outcome of the conflict in all probability will be determined in our classrooms, our laboratories and our libraries. We, therefore, will be inviting disaster and self-destruction if we neglect the education of our people. Education is also of the utmost importance in the intense economic rivalry between regions of our country. Industry and commerce tend to concentrate in areas where one finds the best brains. This is true in particular as regards industry which is science based and science oriented. This kind of industry flourishes near our centers of learning. As has been pointed out recently, one state—California—has 24 per cent of all government defense contracts now in effect and 42 per cent of all the space exploration contracts.

Maryland, with a great variety and abundance of educational and cultural opportunities, is in an exceptionally favorable position today for the development of this type of industry. The Maryland-District of Columbia Science-Industry Complex has become one of the nation's