
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

As this subject overlaps several others, the selection of materials has been a difficult task. By and large, items have been selected on the basis of their relevance to general public administration rather than substantive subject matter. The Governor's conception of his role as the State's executive leader is an example of this. His practice of personally keeping in close touch with department heads and important boards and commissions indicates his system of administration.

Governor Tawes' frequent references to diverse phases of general government reflects his broad interest in all aspects. He recognizes the central role of political leadership. He refers with obvious pride to the fact that Maryland has the oldest state merit system as well as one with the most complete coverage. His sponsorship of consolidations and reorganizations to modernize the State physical and administrative machinery were illustrated by the new State Office Building, the merging of the departments of Health and Mental Hygiene and the modernization of Baltimore City's lower court system. His strong emphasis on the need to keep a close watch on expenditures and to keep taxes within bounds characterized his view of public stewardship. His frequent references to the growing demand to assist local government in its struggle to meet the urban population explosion indicated a concern for the total governmental spectrum. These problems were, in his mind, closely related to legislative reapportionment.

INTERVIEW BY MR. JOHN HEBAL,
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, ON
"THE DUTIES OF THE GOVERNOR."

January 8, 1959

Question: Has the Governor's strong role in budgeting given him adequate authority to enable him to furnish leadership in policy formation and overall coordination to the major departments headed by boards? What other means does the Governor have by which he may lead the boards?

Answer: The power vested in the Governor through the Executive