

children in their population, the Maryland Children's Center cannot, by itself, remove all of the detained children from the training school population.

The Maryland General Assembly at its 1959 session authorized construction funds in the amount of \$455,000 for a southern regional detention center of 40 beds. This southern regional detention center, when placed in operation, will give the State, in combination with the Maryland Children's Center, 96 beds for detention and study.

Children admitted to the Maryland Children's Center will be studied and an appraisal will be made as to their physical, their intellectual, their psychological, their educational and their social abilities and problems. The General Assembly has authorized 38 full-time positions and several part-time contractual positions for the Maryland Children's Center.

The staff of the Center is headed by Superintendent Poland and has been in the process of training and preparing for the admission of the first youngsters from the courts. The staff includes social workers, teachers, a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a pediatrician and the necessary supervisory, clerical, business and food service and maintenance employees.

The key importance of the Maryland Children's Center in the Maryland State program for the institutional care of delinquent children cannot be too heavily emphasized. It will receive more children from the courts in a single year than any of the other State Institutions, and while it will contribute to the reduction of the serious overcrowding at the State training school, it also will serve the State, the children and the courts with a much more fundamental and important program of study and evaluation. With the Maryland Children's Center, the State of Maryland, in the opinion of many experts, moves to the forefront of state programs for the institutional care, the study and the treatment of delinquent children.

I would be remiss in my duties if I were not to take this opportunity to express, for the State, my sincere appreciation for the hard work and for the support of all who have made it possible for the State of Maryland to place the Maryland Children's Center into operation.