

join the other states in granting to these people the sacred right the rest of us enjoy—the right to vote in a national election.

During the first part of our term we saw the transfer of most of the major departments of State Government into the new State Office Buildings in Baltimore City and in Annapolis. This required careful planning and the solution of many housekeeping problems naturally incident to any such transfer and transition. All of this was accomplished with a minimum of dislocation or interruption of State business. It has resulted in the elimination of congestion and over-crowding which had existed in some State agencies and has resulted in greater convenience to the public. This Administration has strengthened the Office of Commissioner of Personnel in order that there may be a continuing re-evaluation of position in the State service. This step was taken in order that salaries in State service would be adjusted from time to time on an intelligent basis geared to a comparison with wages offered in private employment and in comparable employment in our area. The wisdom of this step has already been confirmed by the acceptance of a report recommending salary adjustments based on the criterion of comparability by the Maryland Classified Employees Association. In fact, the budget which I will submit during this session will reflect an appropriation of funds for the implementation of these recommended salary adjustments.

As you know, prior to my inauguration there had been a number of plans proposed for the alteration of the 30-day even-year sessions of the General Assembly. I urged, and you agreed, that we would await the results of the 1960 30-day session under Democratic leadership of the General Assembly and a Democratic Chief Executive. I believe that it is now accepted and a matter of history that this past 30-day session was orderly, efficient and conducted in the best interests of the general public. You have proved that 30-day sessions can be conducted within the bounds of the present Constitutional requirements and without change. For this you are to be congratulated.

Another accomplishment in which both you and I can take pride, is the fulfillment of a long desired reorganization of the State Tax Commission of Maryland which had exercised both administrative and quasi-judicial functions. It has long been recognized by students of government that these functions ought to be separate. Studies had been made and recommendations had been proposed for this reform, but to no avail. In the first year of our term of office (1959) legislation was enacted for the creation of a Maryland tax court with jurisdiction of quasi-judicial nature and in the same legislation we created