

In addition to that, I think it is very important for a Governor to visit the counties, and very soon after my election I undertook to do just that. We've now been in all the counties in the State except six and have spent on the average three to four hours in each county. This strengthens the tie between local and State governments. Due to the proximity to our nation's capital, Maryland's Governor is invited to attend numerous official and social White House functions, and you're not supposed to say "No" when the President invites you. There are other things, such as participation in a national Governors' Conference, testimony before Congressional Committees on legislation affecting State government, political relations, State responsibilities as the honorary head of the party that the Governor happens to be from; national responsibilities, including participation in the **Governor's Conference of that particular party, the many contacts with other states that require your presence when Governors get together to discuss things, such as the Potomac River Watershed or the Susquehanna, or the Southern Governors' Conference.** Maryland falls in the South one way, we fall in the Middle Atlantic one way, and sometimes we are even in a grouping that includes more northern than southern states. *In addition to that, the Secretary of State, who operates right under the Governor, has quite a few functions. Twenty-two functions of a recurring nature are vested in the Secretary of State's office by constitutional and statutory provisions, including the registration and regulation of lobbyists, petitions for referendum, and processing all commissions for appointments. Many of these duties have been designated on an arbitrary and disjointed or very casual fashion. The functions range from the registration of trade and service marts to the registration of sub-machine guns. The Secretary of State is authorized to issue special police commissions, yet no specific guidelines or criteria accompany this authority. The Secretary of State's responsibilities, delegated by the Governor, include handling all matters concerning prisoners' extradition, petitions for executive clemency and commutation. He does the research and the ground work to get the information before the Governor. He often substitutes for the Governor both in office appointments and in ceremonial appearances. And due to the character of the individual rather than the office, the Secretary of State currently acts sometimes as legal advisor on the spot, legislative liaison, or any other thing that a good lawyer can do. I am very pleased and fortunate to have a man that qualified as my Secretary of State.*

The Governor has a staff whose organization and responsibilities are varied. We have an appointments officer. He handles all requests for