

The Governor said the area of "frills" around public education provide some of the greatest irritants to those parents and taxpayers with children in private or parochial schools.

They have a justifiable complaint, he said, about tax money going for such purposes while being denied to their children.

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### REMARKS TO COMMITTEE ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

October 10, 1967

Since I have discussed my general views on the philosophy, objectives and content of Maryland's new Draft Constitution to assemblies of the total convention on several occasions, I will limit my opening statement to those points and problems which are of major interest and importance to this committee and rely upon your questions to pursue significant and pertinent detail.

In my address of September 29th to the total delegation, I outlined and emphasized my proposals to reform and strengthen the executive branch. Here, I believe, my experience may have some value, for most of my public career has been spent as a chief executive, first in local and presently in State government.

As I noted in my speech twelve days ago, and I stress again today, the Governor of any state is elected by a plurality of the voters. His authority stems from their directive and he is primarily responsible to the electorate. His election is presumed to imply the endorsement of his policies and programs as articulated during the gubernatorial campaign. While his election does not sanction unrestricted or unqualified executive action, ample constitutional safeguards against the abuse of executive authority are vested in the legislative and judicial branches of government. These act as checks and balances upon the exercise of executive authority. These constitutional devices provide for review of critical decisions and prevent any disproportionate exercise of executive power. However, if checks and balances are permitted to exist *within* rather than among the three traditional branches of government, initiative is inhibited, efficiency and effectiveness are impaired.

Under the existing Constitution's provisions, executive-administrative authority is eroded by a surfeit of elected officials and a multi-