

In addition to furthering the prepayment of Federal grants to local governments, started last year to facilitate the construction of urgently needed projects, the 1968 legislation contains these new features:

It provides for loans of up to \$250,000 for construction of sewers in communities not previously able to afford them. Such aid was previously limited to sewage *treatment* facilities.

It provides matching funds for Federal grants to control pollution throughout river basins and service areas, instead of more limited jurisdictions.

It encourages communities to participate in demonstration grants provided by the Federal government for water pollution control.

It directs the preparation of plans, by June 1 next year, to establish controls over surface water run-off and pollution from watercraft and marinas, two major sources not now regulated.

It coordinates the efforts of State agencies now working independently in the field of water pollution, provides for a Science Advisory Board to bring new technical competence to bear on the problem, and encourages development of new designs for sewerage systems.

In the aggregate, these provisions — along with others not enumerated — combine to launch a massive effort by Maryland to protect the purity of its greatest natural resource — water.

I am extremely pleased to sign into law this legislation, which should benefit generations far into the future.

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#### COMMENT ON SIGNING REDDING REPORT BILLS

May 7, 1968

Two of the outstanding bills passed by the 1968 General Assembly, Senate Bills 220 and 221, went through with such little fanfare, controversy and opposition — because of the solid groundwork done on them — that I would like to call special attention to them at this bill-signing today.

This is the legislation of the so-called Redding Committee, a joint legislative-executive committee appointed by Senator James and me last fall to try to extricate the State from its almost insoluble roads financing problems.