

1 is an unwarranted dilution of the governor's executive
2 authority and responsibility. It has been argued before
3 the committee that over the last 20 years the Board has
4 seldom had a vote, and therefore, the Board has not
5 interfered with the governor's decision making prerogative.
6 Maryland has indeed been fortunate in having had responsible
7 public officials who have resisted the temptation to use the
8 Board as an arena of internecine warfare, but the committee
9 believes it imperative to assure that all decisions of the
10 Board are in keeping with the Governor's views and policies
11 and not the result of compromise with other officials who
12 have no responsibility to the Governor.

13 The removal of the Board of Public Works from
14 the Constitution will not disturb the power of the General
15 Assembly or of the Governor through his reorganization
16 authority to allocate the Board's present powers, functions,
17 and duties. It should be noted that the president of the
18 Board is called upon to give approval to literally thousands
19 of small, routine transactions.

20 For example, the Board approves such matters
21 as travel expenses, write-off of equipment.