

arranging for the use of the appropriate hearing rooms when the occasion requires it, assisting the staff adviser in preparing the committee's recommendations, seeing that the committee's recommendations are processed through the proper channels, and doing the other myriad administrative tasks which will be required in connection with the work of each committee. The only other full-time personnel of each committee will be one secretary to the chairman and the committee and one assistant secretary who will also serve as the personal secretary of the members of the committee.

To these committee staff persons, we will add a group of research assistants—professional people skilled in various phases of research. They will be available upon assignment by the director of the research staff or the chief of staff to perform specific research projects for various committees.

In recruiting a staff for the Convention, we have kept in mind the fact that this Constitutional Convention of Maryland is not only unique in our generation but is not likely to be repeated in this State for several more generations. We have therefore endeavored to select not only competent professional and clerical personnel, but also to involve to the greatest possible extent the young people of our State so that they too may be a part of this historic undertaking and become imbued with a desire to participate actively in public affairs or even perhaps to make a career of public service. Do not be surprised, therefore, to discover among the staff assigned to positions normally not thought of as professional, persons of professional stature, capacity, and competence, and do not be surprised to find that the young men and women who serve as administrative assistants to the committees are similarly trained and skilled.

As a part of this same policy of involving the young citizen we have recruited, with the support and assistance of the State Department of Education, approximately 50 young boys and girls, all of whom are honor students in advanced senior classes in the secondary schools of the State. They have been nominated by the principals of their schools, not only for their scholastic excellence, but also for their interest in the work of the Constitutional Convention and what it means to the State of Maryland, their desire to participate, and their other qualities of alertness and leadership. They will serve as your pages in the sessions of the Committee of the Whole and of the Convention and as messengers to the committees. Several will serve continuously

throughout the session, but most of them will serve for periods of two weeks, after which they will return to their classes for a period and then serve again for another two-week period, so that each of these young people will serve as a page for a period of at least four weeks.

They are not observers; they are workers. During the period of their service they will be housed in Annapolis either at St. John's College or in private homes, and they will work full time each and every day of their service. Use them, make them feel that they are earning their pay, performing a service and participating in a public event of the highest order. They will carry back to their homes, to their schools, and to their friends and acquaintances an impression of the work of this Convention which could be obtained in no other way.

This Convention, by an overwhelming vote at its organization session on July 11, adopted the principle that all sessions of the Convention and of its committees should be open to the public. In keeping with this principle and in accordance with the requirements of section 14 of the Convention Enabling Act, we plan to provide not merely a public relations office, but an information service which we hope will, as its name implies, furnish complete information service not only to the press and other news media, but also to visitors and to the public generally.

This information service will be housed in one corner of the large room used by the Department of Legislative Reference during sessions of the General Assembly and will be freely accessible to the public at all times. A card index showing the current status of every proposal pending before the Convention and each of its committees will be maintained and the information service will at all times have on hand readily available a copy of every delegate proposal, committee recommendation, or other document prepared for use of delegates or distributed to them.

The information service will be staffed by persons whose duty it will be not merely to prepare formal press releases or other public information bulletins, but to answer inquiries as to every phase of the operations of the Convention. They are to be of service and will, upon the request of any representative of the news media or any member of the public, obtain information necessary to answer any reasonable inquiry. It will be our purpose to have complete and current coordination between each committee and the information service through the medium