

population, or better yet, a broadly defined delegation.

4. The General Assembly should be prohibited from enacting local legislation. The General Assembly has continued to enact public local laws for chartered counties, despite Article XI-A. The General Assembly should neither pass public local laws nor public gen-

eral laws which interfere with home rule and are not truly of general matters.

5. Provision should be made for metropolitan area functions subject to careful safeguards. Inter-city/county agreements should be authorized. No special district should be created unless it is to be a part of multi-functional, responsible government.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

#### LETTER FROM MARYLAND POST MORTEM EXAMINERS COMMISSION TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMMISSION

DECEMBER 9, 1966

Mr. H. Vernon Eney, Chairman  
Constitutional Convention Commission  
Mercantile Trust Building  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

A representative of the State Health  
Department  
(William J. Peebles, M.D.)

The Commissioner of Health of  
Baltimore City  
(Robert E. Farber, M.D.)

Dear Mr. Eney:

On or about October 14, 1966, the newspaper reported that your Commission had recommended that the proposed constitution revisions provide that the appointment of administrative department heads in Departments supervised by ex-officio commissions should be made by the Governor rather than the Commission or Board, as is now provided in several State Departments.

At the One Hundred Fifty Second Meeting of the Commission, held on October 18, 1966, the above stated proposal was discussed at length. The Commission directed me to set forth to you their concern that the proposed change would be detrimental to the interests of the Department of Post Mortem Examiners and therefore of the people of the State.

The Post Mortem Examiners Commission of Maryland, which is the head of this Department is an ex-officio commission consisting of

By way of history I would like to point out that the coroner system of the State of Maryland, which existed prior to 1939, was generally inefficient and ineffective in the traditional role of investigating deaths in the public interest. The legislature in 1939 abolished the coroner system and established the present medical examiner system by Article 22 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The Professor of Pathology of the  
Johns Hopkins Hospital  
(Robert H. Heptinstall, M.D.)

The Professor of Pathology, University of Maryland  
(Harlan I. Firminger, M.D.)

The Superintendent of Maryland State Police  
(Col. Carey Jarman)

In the opinion of the Commission:

1. The provision that the chief, the assistants and the deputy medical