

examiners shall be appointed by the Commission and shall serve indefinite terms of office, subject only to removal for cause, is regarded as one of the keystones in the success of the system. It is a fact that the leading positions in the Department of Post Mortem Examiners by their nature call for specially trained career pathologists and toxicologists. There is a real shortage of such career oriented medical-legal pathologists in the United States and the inevitable result of establishing a system wherein continuity of appointment might be dependent on political considerations rather than satisfactory performance would certainly make the chief and assistant medical examiner positions in Maryland so unattractive that it would be impossible to secure good men for the jobs.

2. There arise from time to time circumstances where medical examiners must make decisions and

render opinions which, although based on the facts of the case and their professional knowledge and experience, are nonetheless distasteful to certain members of the public including individuals in high political places. Appointed as the medical examiners are now, they can rest assured that their careers are not dependent upon giving way to political pressure in reaching such decisions.

The proposed change would do much to weaken this status. The Post Mortem Examiners Commission therefore hopes that your Commission will re-examine the matter with specific regard to the Department of Post Mortem Examiners and if action is needed to except us from the proposed changes that you will take such action. I will appreciate an opportunity to appear before your Commission in the event you would like further information about this matter.

Yours very truly,

RUSSELL S. FISHER, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

"AUTONOMY" FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

**LETTER FROM WILSON H. ELKINS, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,
TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMMISSION**

AUGUST 6, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Eney:

Since writing to you on July 15 with reference to a provision about the University of Maryland in the proposed new Constitution, I have made some additional study of the situation in other

states, particularly in the State of Michigan, and I have given further consideration the whole subject. I have also received a copy of the report of the Committee on Miscellaneous Provisions.

It would appear that there is general agreement that the University of Maryland, a highly complex structure with a very comprehensive program which will become more complicated and complex as the federal government becomes increasingly involved in the support of