

tional judgment for popular appeal, especially in an election year.⁷

Educators also oppose appointment of the superintendent by the governor. Abolition of such method of selection for Maryland was recommended in the 1921 report to the Educational Survey Commission. "For, the superintendent, who is the state's educational executive, should be chosen, not by the Governor, but by a board as far removed from political influences as possible, for a term either indefinite or long enough to avoid danger of political complications."⁸ This recommendation was subsequently followed.

Interest groups support professionals in favoring educational autonomy. Parent-teacher's associations, citizens' committees for better schools, and similarly potent interest groups would not be happy with the notion that the schools should be considered a regular department of state or local government, subject to political control by the governor.⁹

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ A. FLEXNER & F. BACHMAN, PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MARYLAND—A REPORT TO THE MARYLAND EDUCATIONAL SURVEY COMMISSION 23 (5th ed. 1921).

CONCLUSION

The main argument against appointment of the superintendent by the governor is that the position requires certain professional qualifications, and a gubernatorial appointment is often made by reason of a person's political affiliation rather than his special skills or knowledge. However, all agencies deal with a specific area of administration and the heads of these agencies therefore must have expert knowledge in that area. In many instances, the knowledge required is much more technical than that required for a superintendent of schools, yet the heads of these agencies are appointed by the governor. This need for a man with professional knowledge, which educators argue requires special treatment for the department of education, is a need experienced by all agencies. The department of education is no different in this respect from any other agency, and there appears to be no other valid reason why this need should not be filled by gubernatorial appointment as has been done successfully in the other agencies.

⁹ THE FORTY-EIGHT STATES, *supra* note 2, at 123.