

inmates of penal institutions, and prepares for the release of these inmates when it can be effected without harm to society or to the individual concerned.

The fact is that most of the prisoners within our penal institutions are going to be released sooner or later. Society should be greatly interested in taking every precaution that they are released when and under circumstances that will most surely indicate their ability to readjust themselves in the social order. During the period of their attempted readjustment they must be supervised, as much for society's welfare as for their own. This supervision can only be accomplished if there is an adequate staff of parole officers.

If we look at the situation from the standpoint of dollars and cents, it is more economical to assist those persons who are capable of reformation and readjustment in society to become self-supporting and to live decently, rather than to maintain them in prison. But more important than monetary consideration is the fact that human beings are thereby salvaged.

In the field of public education we must keep constantly in mind that the child receiving his education at the hands of the State is the citizen of tomorrow. The development of his mind is an important investment which will pay dividends to the State in a better type of citizenship, in a higher culture, and in wider enlightenment. While I am Governor of Maryland, no influence detrimental to the proper functioning of the public-school system will be tolerated. I say this unqualifiedly because it is my sincere hope that the public-school system of Maryland may be second to none in the entire United States.

Time does not permit a detailed discussion of many other important phases of the State government and of the possibilities before us. Without intending to minimize their importance by briefer reference, I might remark that regulation of the handling of alcoholic beverages requires strengthening and modification.

In deciding under what conditions and regulations intoxicating liquors are to be dispensed, I suggest that there ought to be a distinction made in regulations governing sales on Sunday and those on week-days.

The question affecting agriculture are of far-reaching importance and deserve your thoughtful consideration. Recognizing that benefit to the farmer will mean benefit to the entire State, I bespeak your serious attention to matters bearing upon the welfare of those engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Before concluding this address, I wish to pledge to the members of the coordinate branch of the government—the General Assembly—my cooperation and assistance. At the same time, I will ever be respectful of the prerogatives of the Legislature upon which I have no disposition to infringe. Inasmuch as the work of the legislative and executive branches are interrelated, I shall strive to perform the part of the Executive expeditiously and shall submit matters to the Legislature promptly in order that unnecessary time may be saved and delays avoided.

It may not be too much to hope that the work of the Legislature will proceed as promptly as is consistent with efficiency and suitable deliberation so that the work may be completed before the expiration of the period allowed by the Constitution. Public money would be saved, and the anxiety occasioned by pending legislation would be averted, if this General Assembly terminated its session before the end of ninety days. Undoubtedly the Legislature would earn the lasting gratitude of the people if this much-desired accomplishment could be effected.