

In the various Counties we have been fortunate in securing the services of competent men, many of whom have been recommended by members of the Bar and outstanding citizens. As a further step toward safe-guarding the important interests of the higher judiciary, I have publicly invited the Maryland State Bar Association to devise a plan for the submission of recommendations of judges for the higher courts to fill vacancies as they may occur. In anticipation of the retirement of capable judges who have been instrumental in bringing our courts to their present high estate, I took this initial step in order that the combined judgment of leading lawyers from all over Maryland would be available in the selection of successors to the judges of our highest courts.

Because of its relationship to court cases mention might be made here of the changes effected in regard to the Coroner system. For years, particularly in Baltimore City, harsh criticism was heard as to the out-moded methods followed in the continuation of the Coroner system, but little or nothing was ever done about it.

During this year the Coroner system has been abolished and in its place there has been set up a group of medical examiners whose method of functioning has been established along the lines suggested by the medical profession and designed to afford expert and technical service in the most approved manner.

During the past year Maryland has extended its excellent program of education. One of the most important accomplishments was the enactment of a new teachers' salary schedule, which took effect in September. This new scale is one of the most modern in the Country, in that it is based upon preparation rather than position, and extends the number of years during which increments for experience may be earned.

At the request of the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers and the County Superintendents of Schools, the Legislature also provided for a survey of the State School System for the purpose of determining the next steps in the State's educational progress.

High school enrollment in both white and colored schools of the counties increased 2,433 during the year to a total of 41,204, and additional teachers were provided to take care of this increased enrollment. Several new colored high schools were started. The program of educational and vocational guidance was considerably extended, and provisions for mentally handicapped children were increased.

The number of one-room schools was decreased during the year to 260 for the white and 233 for the colored, a reduction of 38 from the preceding year. The elimination of small schools and continued program of consolidation has meant an increase in transportation facilities and the necessary financial aid was provided for these facilities.

There was considerable increase in opportunities for mentally handicapped children. The number of classes was increased from 34 to 59, and the 23 additional teachers were provided for in the Governor's budget.

In the field of physical education an Assistant State Supervisor for girls was appointed.

For the first time in the history of Maryland, there was provision in the State Budget for adult education and night school classes. The sum of \$10,000 has been appropriated for this work. To date 80 classes have been started.