

In mentioning education, no argument need be advanced to well-informed persons as to the absolute necessity of having this branch of the government conducted without interference from any other source other than that which will afford benefit. Political interference cannot be tolerated in this field. The controlling power of public opinion has already dictated this policy in Maryland, but the continuing interest of the club women is needed not only to see that that policy is maintained but to see that in its application it is carried out in the fullest measure.

Before concluding, I might refer to three recent innovations in the State government which are calculated to be of the greatest benefit if they are properly utilized. The fullest use under the most propitious circumstances is necessary in order that the plans work out to the best advantage.

I refer, firstly, to the Legislative Council which is now an actuality in our State; secondly, to the reorganization of the minor judiciary and the elevation of the standards in the Magistrates' courts and thirdly, in the reorganization of the State Department of Parole and Probation, which has as its object the salvaging of human beings.

The mere mention of these undertakings of our State government is sufficient to indicate the possible help and assistance which can be given by club women.

If asked to summarize the increasingly active part which can be played by club women, the following might be listed:

1. The intelligent public-spirited interest in government; its functioning and its problems.
2. The influence for betterment measured to promote a wider application of the principles of justice and humanitarianism that government throughout a lengthy period, too often has lacked.
3. Leadership among the women voters, in no party or factional sense, but directed toward the greater interest of women in matters political and for their active attention at times of election.
4. Participation in the important work to be performed by State Boards and Commissions, such as the hospitals, corrective and childrens' institutions and boards of education.
5. Constructive critical appraisal of the workings of the administration, particularly with respect to the effect of such workings on the future lives of women and children.
6. Activity in public movements of a general character, including those of an quasi-official nature such as safety campaigns as well as those which indirectly benefit the citizenry, including Red Cross and Community Drives.
7. Interest in everything pertaining to education, including membership on County and State Boards of Education, plus watchfulness against subversive influences affecting our educational system.

In conclusion, I am pleased to congratulate and commend the club women of Maryland for their great contribution already made. For the future betterment of government I express the hope that such activity may continue to increase. While Maryland is in much better condition than many of the other commonwealths of the Country, our citizens will be benefitted by planning for the future in order that we may avail ourselves of every possible advantage which will promote general welfare.