

Health, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Insurance Commissioner and the Board of Fire Commissioners of Baltimore City has been secured in aiding in the inspection of these homes to determine their eligibility for such purposes. The Department of Public Welfare also licenses homes for boarding children to determine that institutions offering such services meet reasonable and adequate standards.

The effect of this program of integration of related services with the administration of public assistance has been constructive in a number of ways. It gives to each county a local public welfare department diverse enough in its activities to prevent duplication. It makes possible a combination of ways and means for avoiding unnecessary dependency, with the granting of assistance. It assures that care and support at public expense will be made available to those unable to pay for it from their own resources. And lastly, by means of the licensing authority locally centered, it makes possible the maximum service from all local agencies, and an assurance of minimum standards of care for children and aged persons provided for away from their own homes.

Another special service rendered by the department during the last two years relates to the work of the CCC camps. For the past two years, Maryland has enrolled 5,500 young men in these camps. They were selected and enrolled by the County Welfare Boards and the Department of Public Welfare in Baltimore City. The essential purpose of the CCC camp is to provide employment in much needed conservation work and training opportunities for the youth of this Country between the ages of 17 and 23. While boys from families receiving public assistance are given priority in selection for camp enrollment, any boy in need of a job is eligible.

Another activity relates to the distribution of surplus food commodities sent into the State by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Department of Public Welfare maintains a warehouse in Baltimore City at which place car-load lots of the commodities are received. These commodities are repacked into smaller containers and distributed to assistance families, to schools for free lunch programs, and, to a limited extent, to public institutions.

THE TRIAL MAGISTRATE SYSTEM; AND THE TRAFFIC AND PEOPLE'S COURTS

It is the plain truth to state that in no two-year period has such improvement been made in the minor court system than as the result of the legislation passed in 1939 and the administration of the various new measures. Prior to your last general session, our State had suffered from an antiquated and obsolete justice of the peace system. The out-of-date fee system and grave abuses combined to bring these courts into disrepute and, indirectly, to reflect upon the entire judicial branch.

One of the outstanding pledges of the present administration was to correct this situation. A State-wide Committee, of which former Judge Hammond Urner was Chairman and Charles T. LeViness, III, Secretary, submitted a plan which replaced the old system with a modern trial magistrate law. Following the passage of this legislation the number of magistrates was reduced by approximately two hundred and a much improved type of administration has resulted. Modern methods have been inaugurated, better-qualified officials have been attracted to these positions and, in general, these courts have been brought