

some chronic ailment. Some of these individuals are now in county homes. The report of the Commission recommends that two chronic disease hospitals, with provisions for care of infirm cases, be erected in the State; one on the Eastern Shore and one on the Western Shore. Admission to these institutions must be approved by the Boards of County Commissioners of the counties of which the patients are residents.

It is recommended that the State construct the buildings and that the counties pay 75 cents per day for the care of those patients sent to these hospitals: that the State bear the additional cost of maintenance: and that the administration of the hospitals be placed in the Board of Welfare, which would have the advice of the competent group of hospital and medical authorities. The Boards of County Commissioners also would be represented on the Boards of Visitors for the two State institutions. The matter of adequate care for chronically ill persons has for many years been of concern to the people of the State and various investigating commissions have inquired into the matter, but no action has heretofore been taken. I commend to you the report of the Commission for your favorable consideration.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

It has been apparent for some time that much could be accomplished in the field of Juvenile Delinquency if a study of this problem could be made with a view to adopting the best corrective procedure possible.

In line with this thought, I appointed several months ago a Commission on Juvenile Delinquency to make such a study, and to report their findings to your body during this session.

It is hardly necessary to point out the great benefits that will accrue to the State in general if methods can be found through proper handling, to re-adjust those juveniles who are in need of correction.

Many who have interested themselves in this matter have felt that another type of institution is needed in the State to care for those cases not so serious as to warrant commitment to existing institutions. Again it was felt that it would be helpful if a study could be made concerning Juvenile Courts in the various counties, in some of which there are no special courts at the present time dealing with Juvenile Delinquency.

The State is fortunate in having such a group of well-informed men and women as compose the Commission, willing to devote their services and their abilities to this matter. I am entirely hopeful that as a result of this study your body will have before it at this session a workable plan that can be adopted, because I know the results will more than justify any action that might be taken.

Purposely left for final mention is the most important functioning of the Legislative Council. The previous subjects have related to the Executive or Judicial branches of the Government. Inasmuch as any proposed changes or amendments to the present statute law must be passed by the Legislature, it seems fitting to refer now to this agency of the General Assembly.

In suggesting the creation of the Legislative Council two years ago, I ventured the opinion that through its operation untold good could be accomplished, both in the improvement of the quality of legislation, and in the elimination of unnecessary and time-taking proposals. Without doubt, the work of