

the Council has more than justified its creation. Because I have not been a member of the Council and am entitled to no credit for the good it has accomplished, I can speak more freely as to its operations.

Throughout its meetings, the Council has devoted itself conscientiously and painstakingly to the study and consideration of problems confronting the State. I particularly wish to emphasize the fact that there has been a conspicuous absence of partisanship in its deliberations. The members have not approved the consideration of the questions as a majority or a minority representation. This is most commendable, and I feel that the Council richly deserves the signal approval of its work given by President Isaiah Bowman of Johns Hopkins University, when he expressed his observation of the work of the Council in a letter to Senator Arthur H. Brice, Chairman of the Council, as follows:

"The work of the Legislative Council, of which you are Chairman, has drawn the favorable attention of every thoughtful citizen. I hope that the work of the General Assembly, facilitated by your recommendation, will be correspondingly favored with public approval.

"The Governor's Commission on the Structure of the (Maryland) State Government, appointed two years ago, which I had the honor to serve as Chairman, strongly recommended such a Legislative Council. It therefore seems appropriate that I should send you a word of encouragement and thanks for the way in which the new Legislative Council has performed its duties. I can think of few contributions to the welfare of the State that can compare with the devoted services of your Council."

In referring to the Legislative Council, which will have a number of bills ready for prompt consideration, I desire to lay emphasis upon this fact. The Legislature has lost none of its rights through the creation of the Council. The elected representatives of the people, including every member of the Senate and every member of the House of Delegates, are the Legislative branch of the Government. The Constitution provides for that, and no provision by law or otherwise can deprive the members of their rights. Accordingly, it will be to the entire membership of the General Assembly that the public will look for final decisions on all matters under consideration. That the Senate and the House will meet their responsibilities I have no doubt.

CONCLUSION

This detailed narration, Ladies and Gentlemen of the General Assembly, includes the important developments in the past two years attributable in large measure to legislation passed by your body, and which has resulted in the more orderly dispatch of the State business. However, our desire is not entirely to dwell upon the past and to emphasize whatever success may have been attained. A further obligation remains, which is to utilize the experience of the past for even greater accomplishments in the future.

These accomplishments can undoubtedly be made because Maryland's strong financial position makes it possible to do so. However, they can be made, only through cooperative effort between the legislative and executive branches of the government. Fortunately, a workable and friendly relationship has existed between the two branches and I am confidently of the belief that this will continue during and after the present session.