

to lay the whole matter before such a body of intelligent, impartial men as comprised Dr. Bowman's Commission, with the hope that out of the welter of conflicting ideas and suggestions, some plan might be evolved that would not only be desirable in itself, but that would reconcile the many conflicting viewpoints and ideas.

This Commission, as you know, in its report concerning the problems of Conservation dealt with principles and a proposed administrative structure. But it is the members of the Legislature and I who must find the ways and means of giving effect to those principles and decide on the successive steps that must be or can be taken to do so.

A Bill embodying these recommendations of the Bowman Commission was prepared and submitted to the Legislature while other measures sponsored by the Outdoor Life Association and other groups were, also, offered embodying their respective ideas of the character of legislation needed. It soon became apparent to me and to the leaders and members of the two legislative branches that it would be impossible to secure the passage of a bill embodying all of the recommendations of the Bowman Commission.

Knowing from experience how attempts to put through constructive conservation in past Legislatures had bogged down because of opposition from one group or another, I came to the conclusion that to save the whole idea of Conservation for this session, it was necessary to forsake this highly desirable measure, which had little chance for passage, and to substitute a measure that would embody the essentials of the discarded bill, but that would eliminate such features as would likely prevent its passage.

I thereupon called into consultation many persons from throughout the State who by experience were familiar with the many problems of Conservation and I, also, conferred with officials of the United States Bureau of Fisheries and others having scientific knowledge of the problem. As a result of these consultations, I suggested a compromise plan and it is now pending in the Legislature. The program is entirely consistent with my previous statements about Conservation and my campaign pledges on the subject, as is indicated by my letter of April 1939 which I have quoted.

The steps in the conservation program which I propose are as follows:

It establishes two separate departments, namely, one devoted to the commercial fisheries and the other to inland fisheries and upland game, each with a separate head. The establishment of these two separate Commissions is in keeping with action in many other states in dealing with their conservation problems. Among the states having separate commissions or departments for the handling of commercial and non-commercial fisheries are Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Virginia and South Carolina. Not only have these separate commissions been in existence in other States but the results which they have obtained have been so satisfactory that they would not consider returning to the antiquated system we now have in Maryland and under which our sea-food industry has been so unsatisfactorily handled.

Even the Federal Government's conservation activities are separated. Fisheries are under the Department of Commerce, Game and Wild Life are under the Department of Agriculture, National Parks are under the Department of Interior. Yet the work of these agencies is none the less effective by reason of the separation and where their activities overlap there is close cooperation.