

For the Justices of the Peace in the counties I should substitute one or more central courts in each county for the trial of such criminal and civil cases as now go before the magistrates. Judges of such courts should be compensated on a salary basis, and the fee system abolished. Their accounts should be audited, and in each county there should be clerks to keep the dockets and to transmit the fines and forfeitures to the State treasury.

In Baltimore City also the magistrate system should be changed, and the People's Court reformed along the lines recommended by the Bar Association of Baltimore City. I shall have introduced as promptly as possible a bill to put into effect these desirable changes that do not require an amendment to the Constitution. In the meantime I shall appoint as Justices of the Peace only those persons known to be qualified by education, character and temperament, and who will regard their office primarily as one of importance and dignity and not as one giving opportunity to profit by the misfortunes of their fellow men and women. The selection of these officials I shall regard as one of my most important duties.

Another matter which I feel is of great importance is the establishment of a Legislative Council. This also was a subject of discussion in the campaign. Such a Council should be composed principally of members of the General Assembly, including the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the majority and minority floor leaders in each House, and several members of each House representing both parties. This body should hold meetings periodically during recess of the Legislature for the purpose of agreeing upon, sponsoring, and preparing a program of legislation to be submitted to the Legislature; and of recommending such revisions of the Senate and House rules as appear to be desirable.

This Council should have a research director with an adequate staff to advise the Council upon such major legislative proposals or suggestions as the Council may agree upon. Its whole purpose would be to improve the deliberative functioning of the Legislature and to make possible the study of legislative matters by a group of responsible leaders before the Legislature assembles. It would give the Legislature a greater voice in the policies of the State government—it would remove many conflicts of interest as well as much confusion and indecision, such as are now inevitable under present conditions. It would enable calm and considered public discussions of proposed laws and give public opinion an opportunity to develop and crystallize. As a result the Legislature would assume the lead in legislative matters and function with a maximum of deliberative efficiency. I am convinced that the adoption of a statute creating such a Council is the best way to improve the quality of legislation and to maintain legislative participation and authority.

Happily, Maryland has had little strife between labor and capital, that has marked industrial centers in other States, and substantially none of the bitterness. I think this is because all of us realize that labor and capital are interdependent, that each, without the other, is helpless, and that what hurts one necessarily hurts the other. There ought to be no antagonism between them, but rather cooperation. Unless the employer prospers, he cannot give steady employment at fair wages, so that the best guarantee of steady jobs at good wages is a prosperous industry.

It is my judgment that this administration ought to do everything in its power to encourage and not hamper industry upon which the wealth of the