

Taking up the specific matters, it is significant that the Prince George's measure goes to the extreme of legalizing slot machines which had not been allowed under the previous law. It was apparently felt that widespread use of such devices would result because the license fee for distributors was set at the high figure of \$5,000.00.

Regarding the Charles and Anne Arundel County measures, I do not lose sight of the fact that the proceeds from the use of the machines would go for hospital and relief purposes. It was argued to me that if this bill is not passed the hospital in Charles County might not be able to function. Against this contention, however, is the fact that, under the present law, only eighty machines of the class referred to are licensed in Charles County netting a total of \$2,800. This relatively small amount will not stand in the way of closing or keeping open the hospital doors in my opinion. In fact, the very worthy aims of the hospital board and staff will be assisted by an increased appropriation from the State which was included in my Budget.

I am forced to the conclusion that the majority of our people object to the legalization of these gambling devices and relied upon us to see that they were not continued in operation. To resort to this left-handed method of sanctioning their use in the several counties referred to would be, I sincerely believe, a breach of faith. For these reasons, I intend to veto the specific measures.

#### PISTOLS.

Chapter 121 (Senate Bill 32). This measure prescribes new conditions relating to the sale, identification marks and possession of pistols. One of the provisions of the bill would make it unlawful for any person to make a loan, secured by a mortgage deposit or pledge, of a pistol or revolver. It is contended by opponents of the measure that this provision would seriously operate to diminish the efficient exercise by the police of duties concerning the transfers of pistols, inasmuch as under the present law it is stipulated that such transfers be recorded by the pawn brokers and reported periodically to the Police Department. The Police Commissioner of Baltimore City gives it as his opinion that this measure may obstruct the work of his Department.

Because I am anxious to cooperate whole-heartedly with the police in the discharge of their duties, I am concluding to veto this measure.