

I have consulted Police Commissioner Robert F. Stanton in regard to these matters and, as it is my intention to cooperate wholeheartedly for the best interests of police administration, I considered it necessary to prevent any innovation which would threaten the proper functioning of the agencies charged with the enforcement of law.

Any outside interference with the powers and authority of the Commissioner in the administration of the Department would tend to break down the morale of the Department and any special privileges granted to those who have, for one reason or another, been separated from the service is unfair to those members of the Department who having adhered to the rules and regulations have remained in the service of the Department.

Accordingly, I am vetoing all of these bills.

The following comment in connection with Chapter 115 (Senate Bill 186), Chapter 412 (Senate Bill 387), Chapter 518 (House Bill 196), Chapter 532 (House Bill 438) and Chapter 625 (House Bill 604), to grant pension allowances to former members of the Police Department of Baltimore City is made to indicate clearly the policy which must be followed if the purpose and intent of the pension laws are to be preserved.

The general law provides that members of the Police Department may be retired after sixteen years' service and found to be incapacitated for duty. Previously twenty-years' service was required, but the law was amended to reduce the period to sixteen years. All of the pending measures are special acts and seek to give pension allowances to men who have not served for the legal period. Accordingly, to sign these measures would be to depart from the stated policy in this respect.

Among the measures is one which would seek to grant a pension to a man for a disability which allegedly occurred approximately thirty-five years ago. Another case concerns that of an officer, the claim of whose survivors is that his death resulted from injuries received in the performance of his duties. However, the certificates of death and of the attending physician establish an entirely different cause of death.

Another enactment would make one-half of the pension payable in the name of the officer and the other half to his wife. This is a marked departure from the established procedure in pension cases.

I invited Commissioner Stanton to express his comments upon the measure and he definitely advises that all of the pen-