

sion bills be vetoed. I have taken occasion to examine carefully every one of the cases and to consider the reports and histories of each individual matter.

In order to maintain the policy which has long been in force and to insure against any innovations which might have detrimental effect upon the Police Pension Fund, I am compelled to veto the measures.

Chapter 619 (House Bill 288). This measure would compel the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City to change every policeman's shift of duty once in each four weeks period. The measure further fixes by law the hours of duty of policemen.

Commissioner Stanton urgently recommends the disapproval of this measure. By the terms of the measure, it is contended the Police Commissioner would be deprived of his right to assign men to shifts or to special duty as he deems necessary and advisable.

Furthermore, the Police Commissioner states that the proposed system was tried out previously and was found to be impractical.

In such an important department as the police force, I consider it unwise legislation which would mandatorily regulate the hours of duty of the members, in such a way that the head of the department would be deprived of his right to assign the men as his judgment dictates. Of course, where deserving men are entitled to the more desirable assignments during daylight hours the Commissioner has the authority to assign them. But to compel him by law to shift his men when the interests of the force and of the public might suffer thereby would be a highly dangerous requirement.

Chapter 622 (House Bill 382). This bill would make possible an appeal from the decision of the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City on the dismissal or suspension of members of the Police Department. This would be a drastic change in the system which has obtained and under which the discipline of the Police Department has been maintained for years.

I consider that the provision of this bill would seriously interfere with the powers of the Police Commissioner to enforce discipline among members of the force and would deprive him of the necessary authority to regulate the conduct of his subordinates.

As I am firmly convinced that this measure would be detrimental to the interests of the Police Department of Baltimore City, I am compelled to exercise my veto.