

Following the urgent suggestion of Police Commissioner Stanton that the remaining Police Bills be vetoed, I am vetoing the following bills:

Chapter 279 (Senate Bill 333), Chapter 379 (Senate Bill 133), Chapter 391 (Senate Bill 268), Chapter 535 (House Bill 510), Chapter 537 (House Bill 558) and Chapter 623 (House Bill 415).

The bills refer to salary increases for certain groups within the department, a radical change in pension payments, and elevations in rank through legislation of other members of the force.

I quote the following paragraph from the Commissioner's letter to me which fully explains the situation:

"A growing practice by members of the Department to make salary raids upon each legislative session should be brought to an end. This last session was the worst since 1930 and it might be timely to have a survey of the salary scale and a general set-up of the several Departments of the Police Force by a non-political Commission and once and for all put an end to these bi-ennial scrambles for increased pay in group movements. The regulations require application to and approval by the Police Commissioner for any such action on the part of members of the Department, or that the offenders be amenable to charges for failure to do so, but what a sorry plight would be presented this year—it would mean that probably two hundred or more members would be put under charges because in but two instances that I now recall, was anything said to me about their proposed action. If this situation continues, it will bring about a complete breakdown in the discipline of the Department and utterly destroy the control of the Commissioner in one of the most vital functions of the office."

The difficulty has been that increases in salary to members of the force can only be secured through legislation and members of the General Assembly have not had the benefit of a comprehensive study and report on the salary scale of the Baltimore City Department. Certainly the legislators cannot be blamed for doing their best to adjust salary differences when they were deprived of any detailed survey of the entire department, which would have revealed any salary deficiencies or inequalities.

In order that this "hit and miss" method may be discarded and to the end that a businesslike approach may be made to this whole situation, I am appointing a Commission to make a thorough study of the grades, salaries and pension fund of the Police Department so that when the next session of the Legis-