

tavern proprietor. The Commissioner urgently recommends the veto of these two Bills.

While it is not the purpose of the Maryland statute to impose unjust and unreasonable obligations upon the tavern proprietor, the State looks to the licensee to prevent sales of intoxicating liquors to minors. Permission to sell alcoholic beverages is a license and the person receiving it assumes a great obligation which he cannot be allowed to transfer lightly to a minor or anyone else. It is the sincere desire of officials to maintain the highest standards in the administration of liquor laws and it must be understood that the licensee must guard against any unauthorized purchase by children or youths.

In the study of these Bills, I have taken into consideration the fact that a conviction returned against a licensee has serious consequences in regard to the renewal of his license. At the same time, the General Assembly, at the recent session, modified the pre-existing law and has vested certain discretion in the licensing authority so that extraordinary and appealing cases can be considered on their merits.

It would seem prudent and wise to prevent the lowering of the bars whereby greater indulgence in intoxicating liquors by minors might be encouraged. While the liquor law administrators believe that these measures might bring about a more satisfactory arrangement, I am convinced that there seems to remain a serious doubt, and I must construe that doubt by doing what I think is in the interest of minors and of the general public.

The fact that the two principal law-enforcing officials of Baltimore City, the Police Commissioner and the State's Attorney, are definitely of the opinion that law violations would be increased rather than otherwise under the Bills in question, is quite persuasive with me.

Under all of the circumstances, I feel that the Bills must be vetoed, which action I am now taking.

ALLEGANY COUNTY.

Chapter 670 (House Bill 803). This bill repeals the pre-existing law relating to bounties for the killing of foxes and certain other animals.

The County Commissioners of Allegany County vigorously oppose the bill, and conservation groups also are anxious that it not be approved. The Western Maryland Outdoor Life Federation, which comprises forty-five organizations in Allegany, Washington and Garrett Counties, have expressed opposition to the measure.

I might also state that the Chairman of the Allegany County delegation, which introduced the measure, has advised me that