

desk clerks. It is suggested that these duties might not be compatible with the duties of a Committing Magistrate who is a part of the judicial system of the State.

In view of the variance with the established practice, I feel compelled to veto the measure.

Chapter 865 (Senate Bill 346); Chapter 753 (House Bill 749); Chapter 895 (House Bill 830). The State Law Department has made special mention of these three enactments in the official opinion concerning bills.

Chapter 865 relates to motor vehicle offenses throughout the State and undertakes to permit Justices of the Peace to accept cash collateral in an amount less than the maximum fine impossible for the violation in question.

Chapter 753 relates to Justices in Prince George's County and Chapter 895 vests the jurisdiction in Justices in Queen Anne's County.

The Attorney General points out that if these Bills were signed, Committing Magistrates, possessed of no authority to try cases or to fix punishment, would be permitted to release the accused on the posting of collateral in an amount of one-tenth of the maximum fine. The legal opinion points out that Chapter 865 is inconsistent with Chapter 895 and that the special Act relating to Queen Anne's County would be at variance with the general law.

The opinion also emphasizes the fact that as to Chapter 865, there is a further question in that the bill repeals and re-enacts that provision of the law giving jurisdiction over motor vehicle offenses to the Justice of the Peace, Committing Magistrate or Police Justice before whom an offender is taken. In the language of the Attorney General's opinion to me, "This seems to be clearly inconsistent with the present Trial Magistrates' law restricting trial jurisdiction to such officials."

In view of this situation, I feel compelled to veto these measures.

#### JUVENILE COURTS.

Chapter 612 (House Bill 648). There was passed, at the recent session, a State-wide law (Chapter 807), relating to the jurisdiction of Juvenile Magistrates generally.

This Bill, which was signed, had been recommended by the Juvenile Court Commission, appointed by me, to survey this important field.

The State Law Department rules that Chapter 612 is inconsistent with the State-wide provision and it is strongly recommended that Chapter 612 be vetoed.