

official, he should be an elected officer. I cannot subscribe to this latter suggestion on the information I have on the subject but, of course, the Legislative Council is free to study this possibility also.

Under all the circumstances, I feel compelled to veto the measure.

### PENSIONS.

Chapter 496 (Senate Bill 250). There has been passed and signed, the General Employees Retirement Bill which is Chapter 377 (House Bill 582).

Senate Bill 250 pertains to the inclusion of Clerks of Court in the General Retirement System. The State Law Department rules, in its official opinion to me, that it is inconsistent with the general statute and should be vetoed.

### PERISHABLE FOOD PRODUCTS.

Chapter 909 (House Bill 550). A different situation exists in regard to the measure which would cover interference with transportation, delivery or distribution of perishable food products in intra-State commerce. I am inclined to the belief that this measure is directed against labor. Certain occurrences in other States, where perishable food products have been held up in transit following labor disputes, gave rise to similar proposals in the other jurisdictions.

Fortunately, we have not suffered from such practices in Maryland and it is sincerely to be hoped that there will be no resort to them. We do not want labor to think that any statute would have its origin in distrust of their good faith and allegiance to their country in a time of national peril. We assume that labor, speaking collectively, is just as patriotic as any other group. Their cooperation is sorely needed at this time and I am confident that we will not be disappointed in their joint efforts for industrial mobilization. I don't believe that we will help in getting their cooperation by enacting a statute which seems to be directed toward the labor group.

Another important consideration must be borne in mind. I refer to the fact that nothing will be lost if this measure does not become law, because there now exists adequate measures prohibiting and punishing offenses such as those designated in Chapter 909. Indictments for Conspiracy, Malicious Destruction of Property, Unlawful Assembly, Riot and Rout and other crimes, would lie for the unlawful acts punishable if House Bill 550 were enacted.

I also make note of the fact that numerous members of the General Assembly, many of whom voted for the Bill, have since the adjournment of the Legislature urged its veto.