

nouncement in the Democratic State platform of 1938 to which I subscribed during my candidacy for this office. The people elected all the State-wide candidates, endorsing that platform, and I have felt that I was in duty bound to maintain this policy.

In view of all of the facts and circumstances, I feel obliged to veto the two above-mentioned Bills.

### POLICE BILLS.

Chapter 517 (House Bill 401). The Police Commissioner of Baltimore City "earnestly recommends" that a veto be attached to this Bill, the purpose of which is to extend the provisions of the Police Pension Fund for widows.

By this Bill members of the special fund may, *at any time*, become eligible to have the benefits from the "Special Fund for Widows". Previously it was required that they give notice at least within 30 days of their appointment of their desire to take advantage of these benefits. In opposing this further extension, the Commissioner writes:

"It (Police Pension Fund) would soon become insolvent if members were permitted to join the system only as a matter of convenience."

In view of the importance of this fund to such a great number of present and former members of the Police Department of Baltimore City, I feel it my duty to stand in opposition to anything which might make the fund insolvent.

Therefore, on the strength of the Police Commissioner's recommendation, I am vetoing this Bill.

Chapter 324 (House Bill 332). This enactment seeks to compel the reinstatement of John D. Klinge as a member of the Police Force of Baltimore City. The former officer was dismissed from the Force on December 26, 1941, after pleading guilty to the charge of "drinking and being under the influence of intoxicating liquor while on duty and in uniform."

This measure is similar to enactments of former sessions where the Legislature undertook to require the reinstatement of other persons who had been dismissed from the Baltimore Police Force. Since I have been Governor I have vetoed every one of these Bills upon the recommendation of the Police Commissioner who has stated that it would be detrimental to the best interests of the Department to have men reinstated in this manner. Police Commissioner Stanton has written me concerning House Bill No. 332 and definitely recommends that the Bill be vetoed.

The Commissioner calls attention to the fact that contrary to the averment in the legislative enactment that he was dismissed