

I agree entirely with the suggestion of the Senator from the 5th District of Baltimore City and, hence, will veto the bill in addition to which I will take steps to see that this question is thoroughly considered to the end that a bill might be proposed at the next session to meet the situation but without jeopardy to the interests of charitable institutions.

## CUMBERLAND.

## HOUSE BILL 336.

March 28, 1945

Honorable John S. White,  
Speaker of the House of Delegates,  
State House,  
Annapolis, Maryland.

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

I am returning herewith House Bill No. 336, *without approval*, for the following reasons:

"This Bill is applicable to the Police Force and Fire Department of the City of Cumberland. It imposes specific requirements as to the length of service, which must be acquired by members of the Police Force before they are eligible for promotion as Chief of Police, Assistant Chief or Lieutenant. Further, it stipulates that members of the Fire Department must have gained certain length of service before they are permitted to take the examination for Chief or Assistant Chief of the Department.

"The Bill has worthy objectives, in that it seeks to give recognition to service in the respective departments. Under ordinary circumstances there might be justifiable reasons for imposing the conditions in the Bill but serious objection has been raised as to its effect under the present emergency situation.

"It is urged that the Bill would prevent members of the Armed Forces, now serving abroad in the nation's interest, from being considered for any of the positions in question, during the period after their return to civilian life. Emphasis has been laid upon the fact that, under the terms of the Bill, the City would be denied the right to appoint such veterans who, for example, are receiving special training in the military police force of the country or in the specialized courses relating to fire prevention. I am quite confident that the author of the Bill and those who supported it had no intention to exclude service-men from consideration for these appointments.