

combination, convince the members of your honorable body that the veto should be sustained in the best interests of the State, its political subdivisions and their industrial expansion.

As is generally known, we now have functioning in Maryland the Commission on State Programs, Organization and Finance, made up of public-spirited and well-informed private citizens and members of the General Assembly.

It is the purpose of this Commission to make a thorough study of each Department and Agency of the State and to make recommendations to the General Assembly and to me as to needs for any future changes in their organizations and functions.

The Planning Commission will, of course, have the benefits of such a study, and it seems to me that it would be poor policy and even a breach of trust for us to enact a change as expansive and as radical as that proposed in House Bill 25 without awaiting the results of the study that is to be made by a very capable group of men and women who are serving their State without compensation. Such action would be excusable only in the face of an emergency. It is quite obvious, I believe that no such extenuating circumstance of crisis exists in Maryland.

Indeed, we have been and continue to be the beneficiaries of a considerable extension of our industrial plant, both in the expansion of existing industries and the locating of new companies, and it is my own opinion, as well as that of many authorities with whom I have discussed it, pending documented evidence to the contrary, that a State Department of Economic Development would add nothing to the success which we now enjoy in the advancement of our economy. It might even prove a detriment in that it conceivably could create an atmosphere in which the essential financial support of our excellent Chambers of Commerce and the Baltimore Association of Commerce might be neglected through the erroneous belief of some that a State agency was assuming their functions.

In this Administration and, I am sure, in others, the Office of the Governor has served as a coordinating force with considerable success in the acquisition of new industries when the acquisition moves were initiated in the communities where such initiative rightfully belongs and is most effective. All State departments whose activities could be helpful in such circumstances have been most cooperative, and I am confident they will continue to be so.

As you are aware, the General Assembly in the Special Session of 1956 enacted and I have signed Senate Bill No. 1, which established a Maryland State Port Authority to manage, expand and promote our harbor facilities which, of course, are major inducements to the growth of industry within our borders.

There can be no doubt that this Authority's extensive promotion activities will include proper publicity of the opportunities which exist for industry and business in Maryland—another reason why the expansion of the State Planning Commission for the same purpose would be unnecessary and wasteful at this time.

Even if the need for a State Department of Economic Development should become evident in the future, I still would be opposed to making it a part of the State Planning Commission which already has important functions and duties from which it should not be diverted by a new, time-consuming activity which eventually might supersede the highly essential, primary purposes of the Planning Commission.