

The upward tax adjustments which I proposed and you enacted are in keeping with the times and, particularly, with Maryland's strong position in the industry and economy of the Nation. The desirable balance of our revenue system has not been disturbed, and no special burden has been placed on any business or population segment by these acts.

Beyond that there have been other notable enactments to the credit of your Assembly and the advantage of the State and its people.

The enactment, after many years of effort, of a roadside control law again stresses the value of persistence when the purpose is good.

I was delighted with the commendable and effective manner in which the Members rallied to erase the blot on Maryland's good name that was created by the establishment and expansion of river gambling casinos in circumvention and defiance of the laws of a neighboring Commonwealth.

I am pleased too with the firm manner in which you served notice that Maryland is not fertile ground for new forms of legalized gambling and that our people are not so morally soft as to turn more and more to the so-called easy money of gambling as an important source of public revenue.

You have strengthened the position of the Maryland Port Authority in the development and expansion of our shipping facilities.

Several other good bills were passed—too numerous for listing here.

The Session—like all its predecessors—was not, of course, without its disappointments. Outstanding in this category is the failure to submit to the voters of Maryland the oft-repeated Constitutional proposal to establish a Municipal Court in Baltimore City. Here, again, persistence eventually must prevail over the outside forces of obstruction which long have succeeded in blocking this long-needed reform.

I was sorry, of course, to observe the distressing reductions in proposed funds for the advancement of public health and the care of the needy—but I am confident that we again will pick up where we left off and resume our march of progress in these important fields.

All things considered, we again have demonstrated the vigor, force and feasibility of our democratic form of Government.

I have enjoyed my work with you since your original convening on February 5th. I wish you godspeed on your journeys home, and I thank you again for your good services to Maryland.

Sincerely,

THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:45 o'clock P. M. on the motion of Mr. Boone, duly seconded, the House of Delegates adjourned sine die.