

Seed for private growers is another matter again. We have at present about 12,000 acres under private cultivation in the State. These growers also must have seed, if their grounds are to be maintained in production. For the last twenty years certain grounds in St. Mary's River have been tonged and the seed sold to private growers. The State collects a tax to defray the cost of reshelling the beds, and the tonger is given work in late April when he would otherwise have difficulty in obtaining employment. Growers from all over the State—Anne Arundel, Talbot, Calvert, Wicomico, Somerset, Charles and St. Mary's Counties particularly—buy the seed to plant on their grounds. Consequently production from planted grounds in recent years has helped materially to meet the demand for Maryland oysters without injuring the public rock oystermen. This increased production has improved the economy of many of our tidewater communities.

In the last few years, the St. Mary's River seed production has dropped off drastically. A group of small planters in Smith's Creek in St. Mary's County having five to thirty acres of ground have started growing seed. Their production has also been sold to planters around the State. This has resulted in further employment to local tongers and a badly needed source of seed to planters throughout the State.

Under Senate Bill No. 512 both of these sources of seed would be cut off from private planters all over Maryland. Employment in April for tongers in St. Mary's County would be eliminated and a part of Maryland's present limited oyster production would be further reduced.

At the present time the Commission of Tidewater Fisheries has the discretionary power to open or close the St. Mary's River to the taking of seed and to signify how and where it may be used. There seems to be no valid reason for limiting the power of the Commission and at the same time injuring the planters in St. Mary's County who are producing seed, and those who are buying it to grow oysters. To prevent this, I have no other recourse than to veto this legislation to protect the interest of the State at large. In doing so I am convinced that I am acting in the best interest of the State's seafood industry.

Sincerely yours,

(s) J. MILLARD TAWES,
Governor.

JMT/db

Senate Bill No. 544—State Auditor and Deputy

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 29 (a) of Article 19 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Comptroller", sub-title "State Auditor", amending the provisions of the law concerning the appointment of a Deputy State Auditor.

May 5, 1959.

Honorable George W. Della
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. President:

Senate Bill No. 544 has been vetoed by me today. Article II, Sec-