

The members of the General Assembly of Maryland, in common with thousands of serious citizens of this State, are deeply disturbed over the continuous upward spiral of patient fees and costs in private hospitals of the State.

It is no exaggeration to say that the steady upward trend in hospital fees and costs is one of the primary social problems of our generation.

The present generation is outstanding for its remarkable success in diagnosing and treating baffling diseases which for centuries have been beyond the reach of medical science. It is ironic that at the time new and startling medicines and techniques are available to mankind, he is being literally priced out of the market by excessive costs.

This situation is becoming acute and well-nigh intolerable for most of our people. We feel that the primary responsibility for the situation, and the primary opportunity for its correction, lies with the hospitals themselves. No other agency or person is as close to the situation as the hospitals. They could, if they would, stop the constantly increasing schedule of fees and costs.

The State of Maryland has a definite place in this problem. In the State budget annually many thousands of dollars are contributed to the private hospitals to help defray their spending costs. For the benefit of all citizens in the State, therefore, the State Government should take an active part in a study designated to halt and reverse the continuing increase in the costs of hospital treatment now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor of Maryland be requested to appoint a special commission to investigate on the part of the State the high and increasingly onerous costs of hospital service and treatment in this State; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Governor be requested to place on this commission representative persons throughout the State, including some who are closely familiar with the administrative problems of hospitals, and also including representatives of the General Assembly; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this commission, when appointed, be requested to meet and organize promptly, and to study the causes of the high cost of treatment in hospitals receiving State appropriations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Commission be requested to report to the General Assembly of 1964 its findings and recommendations for halting and reversing the increasing high level of costs for treatment in private hospitals in this State.*

Approved March 14, 1963.