

No. 17

(Senate Joint Resolution 29)

Senate Joint Resolution expressing the deepest regrets of the General Assembly over the passing of James W. Curran, Sr., Commissioner of Correction for the State of Maryland.

The members of the General Assembly of Maryland learned with deep sorrow and profound regret of the passing of James W. Curran, Sr., Commissioner of Correction, which occurred shortly after the adjournment of the General Assembly in 1964.

It is recalled that Jim Curran joined the Department of Correction in 1941 to assist in the growth of the State Use Industry. That he, in this capacity, did promote prison products and greatly expanded the work opportunities for inmates as an aid to rehabilitation.

Recognition of his ability as a Prison Administrative official thereafter shortly followed and succeeding promotions within the Department resulted in his being chosen in 1958 by then Governor Theodore R. McKeldin to head the Department in the capacity of Superintendent of Correction. When the Department was re-organized in 1963, he, at that time, was named by Governor J. Millard Tawes to be the first Commissioner of Correction for Maryland and was serving faithfully in that post when he passed away.

That, during his long State career, he became nationally known, admired and respected for his outstanding contributions in the field of Prison Administration. In recognition of his standing in his chosen field, he was, in 1952, elected President of the American Correctional Association and thereafter remained a lifetime director of said association. In further recognition, he was also elected President of the Southern States Prisons Association in 1957.

Jim Curran was devoted to his chosen profession and to his responsibility of attempting at all times to rehabilitate inmates of the Maryland Correctional System. To that end, he sought to bring about progressive thinking in all institutions and encouraged the philosophy of returning an inmate to society—a better man.

We knew him as a leader in his church and community in addition to being a leading prison administrator and can now reflect that the penal system in Maryland is better as a result of the contributions made by James W. Curran, Sr.; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the General Assembly with these less than adequate expressions of sorrow and regret record its high appreciation for the life, achievements and abilities of James W. Curran, Sr.

Approved May 4, 1965.