

V. THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The General Assembly Compensation Commission has held 8 meetings since its organizational session on December 22, 1970. At that time members of the Commission developed a work plan which resulted in receiving testimony from and questioning of the following witnesses:

December 28, 1970: Hon. William S. James, President of the Maryland State Senate
 Hon. Thomas Hunter Lowe, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates
 Dr. Paul Cooper, Director of the Department of Fiscal Services
 Mr. William S. Ratchford II, Director of the Division of Fiscal Research of the Department of Fiscal Services

January 4, 1971: Hon. Marvin Mandel, Governor of Maryland
 Hon. Francis B. Burch, Attorney General of Maryland
 Hon. Robert F. Sweeney, Deputy Attorney General of Maryland
 Mr. Christ G. Christis, Assistant Secretary of Personnel for Retirement Systems

Mr. Burch and Mr. Sweeney also met with the Commission on January 11 and 12, 1971. Dr. Cooper met again with the Commission on January 11. Mr. Sweeney consulted a third time with the Commission on January 23.

January 12, 18, 20,
 23, 25, 1971: Executive Sessions of the Commission

VI. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

A. *Salary of Members of the General Assembly*

The Commission recognizes the complex considerations involved in determining a reasonable and adequate salary. The hours a legislature is in session normally represent a small fraction of the hours a conscientious legislator spends at his job. Another difficulty in determining adequate compensation in Maryland has been the past reluctance of the electorate to support increases by constitutional amendment. However, by decision in the 1970 general election, the voters of Maryland have entrusted this Commission to examine the entire problem in order to recommend adequate compensation for legislative service. We believe that part of our responsibility is to recommend a salary that is identifiable to the public as *total* compensation, excluding retirement, that a Senator or Delegate earns each year. This knowledge is a critical element of public confidence in Maryland's legislative process; the public is entitled to know exactly what a legislator is paid.

The annual salary that each legislator currently receives is supplemented by a \$25 expense reimbursement each day the Legislature is in session. Regardless of whether the Senator or Delegate actually remains in Annapolis overnight for legislative business, the \$25 is paid. These per diem payments add \$1,750 to the \$2,400 constitutionally-established salary for a 70-day session; \$2,250 for a 90-day session. While most legislators are paid as much as \$4,150 with salary and per diem during the session,