

of a widespread government organization. Nor am I necessarily opposed to the concentration of power in any one person or organization, if sufficient safeguards are included in the law, and if the benefits of such concentration outweigh the disadvantages.

Having disposed, I hope, of some of the generalizations which have been thrust upon me with regard to this bill, let me discuss my reasons for vetoing the measure.

According to section 479(c) on page 5 of the bill, effective January 1, 1978, the Central Data Processing Division becomes responsible for the

"operation, either through the use of State employees, or by means of contractual employees or both, of all small, medium, and large scale computers, and related data entry and peripheral equipment utilized by the State, excluding terminal and minicomputer equipment."

Further, that section provides:

"Accordingly, administrative control over all computer operations, related support personnel, and computer equipment is transferred to the Comptroller of the Treasury under the jurisdiction of the Division. The Division shall assign State agency applications and computing requirements to the State Computer Centers under its jurisdiction. Computer Centers and operations personnel, at the discretion of the Comptroller, may remain in the existing physical location. The Automatic Data Processing Policy Review Board shall approve or disapprove any transfer of equipment, or changes in the number or location of computer centers."

Thus, within six months of the effective date of the bill, this Division will assume legal and administrative control over all equipment, operations, and personnel involved in the entire data processing system. I am advised that approximately 1,200 people are involved.

The six major data centers are not alike, either in function, equipment, or operation. The University of Maryland uses its computers, in part, for various research projects. Public Safety is responsible for maintaining "round the clock" availability of critical information on crimes and offenders for use throughout the entire law enforcement system. Considerations of security, confidentiality, privacy, and time priorities