

May 29, 1979

Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 51.

This bill would create both a Motion Picture and Television Development Advisory Council, consisting of twelve members, and a Motion Picture and Television Development Office within the Department of Economic and Community Development for the general purpose of promoting and assisting cinema and TV production in Maryland.

The object of this legislation is laudable; cinema and television production are economically advantageous activities to which the diverse resources of Maryland, as "America in Miniature", are uniquely suited. However, in my judgment it is wholly unnecessary to create yet another commission in order to promote such economic activity. This Office, the Senate of Maryland and the budget of Maryland are already burdened with too many less than absolutely necessary commissions and boards. Furthermore, the office which this measure would expressly authorize already exists within the Department of Economic and Community Development, its existence and funding over the past two years being ample evidence that both the Executive and Legislative branches have construed the current statutory authority of that Department as being sufficiently broad to encompass the pursuit and encouragement of such activities in Maryland. Finally, to create a special Council for this industry is to generate a precedent for the creation of countless other industry councils, a consequence neither the taxpayers nor the officials of this State should relish.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 51.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor