

which was needed. The most recent study was the one done in 1961 by the Curlett Commission which recommended the establishment of an advisory council to study the problems of higher education in the State and make recommendations to the governor, the legislature and the people of Maryland.

It was upon the recommendations of that Commission that Maryland in 1963 reorganized its system of public higher education, recognizing a tri-partite division of educational responsibility. The major components of that division are (1) the University of Maryland, (2) the state colleges, including Morgan State College in Baltimore and five former teachers colleges, and (3) the community colleges. Behind this three-part organization is the theory that, as in society in general, so in education a pluralistic system is more healthy and constructive than a monolithic one.

The University of Maryland, with its branches and professional schools, is governed, as it has been in the past, by a board of regents. A new board of trustees was created for the five former teachers colleges, with provision made for the eventual inclusion of Morgan State College under its jurisdiction. The community colleges operate under local boards of education with the State contributing substantially, in both operating and capital expenses, to their support.

To tie all these parts together, and to coordinate the functions of the institutions within the pluralistic system, there was created the Maryland Advisory Council on Higher Education. The Maryland Advisory Council is a small agency but it is developing rapidly. It is working through series of committees which have been established to study particular problem areas such as the differentiation of the functions which various institutions should perform, the financial needs of the institutions, etc. These committees involve representatives from public institutions, private institutions, and from the general public. They not only serve the purpose of getting the needed studies accomplished, but they also held to insure that the final recommendations will represent the best thinking of the people who are familiar with the needs of the State. Since the Maryland Council is an advisory body, these committees also perform the important function of putting the Council into close contact with the institutions and other groups which may later be influential in determining whether the Legislature actually decides to take action to implement the Council's recommendations.

These committees, important as they are, cannot operate without