Bill To Seek Audit Shift

By Carol Wharton

Annapolis, Feb. 18—A bill to place the State's auditing system under legislative control is being prepared for introduction in the General Assembly.

The measure, sponsored by Delegates Blair Lee 3rd (D., Montgomery) and Jerome Robinson (D., Fourth), would set up a State Audit Commission composed of the presiding officers of the two houses, the floor leaders and the State comptroller.

The commission would appoint the State auditor at a salary of $9,000, who would serve at its pleasure and be responsible to it.

Postaudits of State agencies would be made to the commission.

Now Named By Governor

Under the present system, the Governor names the State auditor.

Mr. Lee said today that since the auditor as well as the agencies whose account are audited are under the executive branch of the government, it is a case of that branch talking to itself.

He said fifteen other states have a system similar to the one he proposes.

Mr. Lee noted a "growing sentiment" for more control by the General Assembly over the State's expenditures, and added that "in order to make the legislative review of State finances meaningful there should be a closer relationship" between the Legislature and the auditor.

Lawmakers are returning to Annapolis today for a week of stepped-up activity as the session goes into its second half.

Track, Court Proposals

Among the measures going into the hopper are two resolutions by Senator Phillip H. Goodman (D., Fifth).

One asks the State Racing Commission to request the owners of Laurel Race Track to open its Turf Club to the general public on payment of a reasonable admission fee.

The other calls for a Legislative Council study of a change in the laws to allow the Court of Appeals to review the degree of sentences imposed as well as evidence in cases.

On the racing resolution, Senator Goodman said that although a substantial amount of State money was used to rebuild the Laurel Turf Club, it is only open to an invited few and therefore its operation "is not in keeping with the principle of democracy in sports."

Other Tracks Cited

He pointed out that Hialeah and other major tracks admit all to their clubs who can pay the tariff.

As to the Court of Appeals resolution, Senator Goodman said the principle of allowing the high court to affirm, reduce or increase sentences as done under English law has been endorsed by Federal Judge Simon E. Sobeloff and Chief Judge Frederick W. Brune of the Court of Appeals.
Drawbacks Cited To Automation

Automation has its drawbacks and will never entirely replace man, a human engineering specialist told a meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers here.

B. L. Cusack, associate scientist, New York University College of Engineering, New York City, also reported that employees who continue to work on automated processes are becoming bored and are losing efficiency.

Although automation has gained fame for speeding processes and saving some labor costs, Mr. Cusack said recent studies show automation also has its drawbacks and hidden costs. Nearly all automatic processes require human control somewhere in the operation and it is costing increasingly more money to train these specialized employees, prevent boredom and maintain efficiency, he said.

Up to a point, increased use of automatic machines in industry is desirable, Mr. Cusack said. This is especially true for computers which do not fatigue as humans do. They will not make decisions based on preconceived notions without first obtaining and interpreting all the facts necessary to the decision. They do not recognize so-called "common sense" in their operations.

"Common Sense Facts"

Mr. Cusack said human engineering studies have shown many "common sense facts" to be wrong. As an example, he cited the problem of reducing noise for factory workers. Ear plugs would shut out some of the noise, but common sense belief was that the plugs would reduce speech comprehension. Actually, it was found, the plugs greatly increased speech comprehension.

Man will always be superior to automatic computers for his ability to make decisions, his adaptability, anticipation, long-term memory and reasoning power, Mr. Cusack said. He said machines are superior for accuracy and speed of computation, routine, power and short-term memory.

"Even small boys operate as sophisticated computers when they provide the integral solution when knocking a man's hat off with a snowball," he said.

In hovering a helicopter over a fixed point "it has been computed the pilot is providing the solution to some 12 simultaneous equations which would require an elaborate computer to obtain similar machine performance."
COUNTY AUDIT FINDS FAIRyt.

Little Fault Found With Financial Operations

An auditor checking on Baltimore county's fiscal procedures yesterday reported that its "financial affairs have been conducted in a commendable manner."

There was little fault found with the county's financial operations in the biennial audit submitted by Robert W. Black, an independent accountant.

This appraisal by Mr. Black, a certified public accountant, was apparently opposite from views contained in an audit prepared by the county auditor.

Irregularities Claimed

Gordon G. Power (R., Third), chairman of the Republican-controlled County Council, had declared that the audit made by A. Rutherford Holmes, a Council-appointed, revealed gross irregularities in fiscal practices.

This comment produced a flurry of counterstatements from officials in the Democratic-controlled administration, con-