

Mr. Arthur H. Parsons, Jr., Director, Enoch Pratt Free Library
(continued)

has established a procedure which includes a lecture about the library, a story hour, and instruction in, and the actual performance by the minors of, such things as placing books on shelves, sorting cards, filing and other similar related matters covering a period of about twelve hours stretched over three or four days or more; that the library procedure is educational in nature inasmuch as it is learning through doing; that the girls and boys come of their own volition and without any solicitation being made, and that they receive no compensation of any kind in connection with the matter.

Sections 4 to 51, inclusive, of Article 100, of the Maryland Annotated Code (1957 Edition) deal with the employment of minors under 18 years in gainful occupations or certain other places of work or employment, none of which concern us in this case.

However, it is interesting to note that Section 37 states that:

"Nothing in this subtitle shall prevent minors of any age from receiving industrial education furnished by the United States, by this State, or by any city or town in this State, or by any private or parochial school, and duly approved by the State Board of Education, or by other duly constituted public authority."

It is clear that the Legislature intended that the provisions of the subtitle applicable to the present subject should not interfere with educational procedures of minors of any age as long as such procedures are approved by a duly constituted public authority.

The Pratt Library is a body politic and corporate; is largely, if not entirely, supported by public funds furnished by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore; is a public instrumentality carrying on a broad public function in the field of education, and the course of instruction involved in this matter has been approved by a duly constituted authority.

In view of the foregoing, it appears that minors between the ages of 12 and 18 years do not need to secure "work permits" for the purpose of engaging in the course of instruction established by the Pratt Library in cooperation with the youth groups hereinbefore mentioned.