

situation unless some provision is made to compensate employees who give up allotted free time and who render service during the present shortage of manpower. It has been proposed by the Department that authority be given whereby these employees might be compensated when unspent appropriations might otherwise be available for this purpose.

### MOTOR VEHICLES.

March 10, 1943.

The Speaker of the House,  
Maryland House of Delegates,  
State House,  
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Sir:

I am returning, without approval, House Bill 72 (Chapter 97), entitled:

“An Act to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 154 of Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title ‘Licenses’, sub-title ‘Motor Vehicles’, sub-heading ‘Registration of Motor Vehicles and Operators’, relating to the use of number plates or markers.”

The Attorney-General, to whom all Bills are submitted for official ruling as to their constitutionality and validity, has given me his opinion to the effect that the Bill should be vetoed because of the conflicting use of terms in the measure. He suggests that another Bill be introduced remedying the effects in question.

The measure relates to the use of number plates or markers and is intended to permit the use of new tags from March 1st to March 31st, instead of from March 15th to March 31st. However, the Attorney-General points out the section which is repealed and is re-enacted requires the issuance of *two tags*. It is understood that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles intends to issue only *one tab* this year in order to preserve basic materials so necessary for the success of the war effort.

The question of using tabs instead of tags was decided last year, when we undertook to cooperate with the War Production Board in the conservation of steel. However, as the present law gives me specific authority for the use of *one tab*, the State Law Department is of the opinion that such a change, as proposed, could not be upheld under the present law or under this proposed enactment.

The Attorney-General proposes the suggestion that a new Bill be introduced authorizing the issuance of tabs instead of