

I regret that the necessity arose to ask you to return here so soon after the adjournment of the regular session. But the State Constitution (Art. II, Sec. 16) charges me with the responsibility of convening the Legislature in special session when "extraordinary occasions" arise.

By your action here today, you have demonstrated that you are in agreement with me that such extraordinary condition existed.

At the regular session, which was adjourned on April 1, you passed two measures of utmost importance to the people of our State. It should be noted that both bills passed both houses of your Honorable Body without a single dissenting vote.

One of these bills was designed to implement a provision of our State Constitution which was intended to improve the administration of justice by establishing a new Municipal Court for Baltimore City.

The other measure had as its purpose the establishment of regulatory authority over savings and loan associations to protect the investments of our citizens in these institutions.

After I signed the two bills, petitions for referendums were filed with the Secretary of State, the effect of which was to suspend the effective date of these two important measures.

It was my opinion, an opinion in which you have concurred, that the suspension of the two measures created an emergency justifying the action you have taken here today.

The new Municipal Court, set up by you and sanctioned by an overwhelming majority of the voters of the State, would have been seriously handicapped without the legislation you passed here today.

Likewise, without the emergency legislation you passed our citizens who invest their money in certain savings and loan associations would have remained unprotected in these investments.

I should like to emphasize that, despite statements which have been made to the contrary, the people of the State in no way have been denied their Constitutional right to approve or disapprove by referendum legislation passed by the General Assembly.

They will, in fact, be able to exercise that right on the two measures in question in the general election next year if the petitions filed with the Secretary of State are found to be proper.

May I commend all of you for the orderly manner in which you conducted today's session. I am particularly grateful to you for confining yourselves to essential issues.

Again, with sincere thanks, and with kindest personal regards to all of you, I am,

Sincerely,

J. MILLARD TAWES,

Governor

*Which was read and ordered journalized.*