

I know that the people of Maryland join me in commending you for your prompt and proper response to insure the continuation of extended benefits to thousands of our unemployed fellow citizens.

Your action today stands in sharp contrast to the insensitivity of the Federal government as manifested in the passage of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981. Hopefully the President and the Congress will follow your lead and look with greater compassion at the problem that is nationwide in scope.

The legislation you enacted today means, simply, that many Marylanders, unaccustomed to being without work, at least will have the means to meet their daily living expenses while searching for jobs. What you have done here today provides a measure of security, a safety net, if you will, for those in need of a temporary helping hand.

There are indications coming out of Washington that what has occurred here in Maryland has made the Congress truly cognizant of the dire implications that the passage of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981 has for our people. It is my hope that your action today will encourage speedy passage by both houses of the Congress of legislation restoring extended benefits at the Federal level by easing triggering mechanisms and providing for an additional ten to thirteen weeks of benefits until this present crisis in the national economy has abated.

It is my hope also that what has happened here will cause a reassessment of fiscal and monetary policies in Washington resulting in changes that give the human equation far greater consideration.

For your responsible resolution to a problem of immediate and grave consequence to your fellow citizens, I thank you.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor

Read and ordered journalized.

QUORUM CALL

The presiding officer announced a quorum call, resulting as follows:

Delegates -

Mr. Speaker, Parlett, Quade, Mitchell, Hagner, Winegrad, Burkhead, Jimeno, Shandrowsky, Athey, Scannello, Schmincke, Lighthizer, Neall, Smith, E. S., Rymer, Sprague,