

1 there is an escape clause here because it is specifically
2 provided, unless otherwise prescribed by law, so the
3 General Assembly could designate another time other
4 than that stated in the Constitution if it so desired.

5 I might point out with respect to the so-called
6 self-determination of length of session that the
7 ¹⁸⁶⁴~~1851~~ Constitution of Maryland did not set a limitation
8 upon the length of time which the General Assembly would
9 use in meeting. However, the 1867 as well as the ¹⁸⁵¹~~1864~~
10 Constitution did place a limitation.

11 With respect to special sessions, I think it
12 is significant to say and to note that Maryland, together
13 with California and Alabama, has had over the period of
14 the last decade more special sessions of the General Assembly
15 than any of the other 47 States of the Union, so that
16 we have not hesitated to use the special session.

17 Those who argue for allowing the legislature
18 to set its own meeting time of course point to the fre-
19 quency of the use of special sessions as an argument which
20 would buttress their point of view.

21 We also made a significant change in how the