

# Senator Urges Maryland Drop 'Slot Economy'

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ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 4—State Sen. J. Frank Raley Jr. (D-St. Marys) today told his Southern Maryland constituents "to accept the fact that slot machines are over.

"Our efforts should be toward making the transition from a slot machine economy to a more stable one," Raley said, thus becoming the first Southern Maryland legislator to publicly concede that the era of the one-armed bandit is ending in Maryland.

Raley called it "unrealistic" to hope for any reversal of Maryland's slot machine law, passed in 1963 after heavy political infighting. The law will phase out slots entirely by 1968.

Raley criticized slot machine owners for "attempting to skirt around the law" by using multipay units.

## Drops Earlier Support

Following an investigation by State Police of these console units, Del. Royal Hart (D-Prince George's), introduced a bill Wednesday that would require counting each playing position as a separate unit.

"In the past, I voted to keep the slots but I worked at the same time to provide economic substitutes," said Raley, 39, an insurance agent from Lexington Park.

Conceding that his stand could hurt him politically, Raley said, "Nevertheless, we must face facts. The more we try to hold on to slots, the deeper we dig our financial plight."

In other action today:

- Del. Leonard S. Blondes (D-Montgomery) introduced a bill to prohibit his county and other charter government counties from restricting political activities of county employees.

## County Feud Unsettled

- Montgomery legislators turned down a Prince George's solution in a dispute between the two counties over their boundary line near Laurel, but Del. Arthur Dorman (D-Prince George's) said, even so, he would introduce the Prince George's bill.

- "We couldn't come to any kind of consensus," said Del. Hart, Prince George's chairman, after a closed delegation meeting that considered eight proposed subdistricting plans for the County.

- A bill providing across-the-board pay raises for the State Police was introduced by Dels. Marshall, Hart, Goodman and Conroy, all Prince George's Democrats.