

portance, in my opinion, as to warrant consideration and action during these next thirty days.

The problem of equitable representation in this General Assembly was tackled by one of these commissions. You are familiar with the legislation proposed by this commission. Like so many documents created in the democratic process, including the imperishable Constitution of these United States the report is a reconciliation of the divergent and conflicting view of its framers. Measured by standards some would set the proposal is inadequate in that all inequities are not removed. In the judgment of others, it is not needed and is therefore undesirable. In my opinion, it is the best solution we can expect under the circumstances. And so, I request that you approve it at this session.

The existence of a strong, independent and competent judiciary is essential to the preservation of the freedom of the people in a democracy. Those of us who serve in the other two branches of our government, legislative and executive, must not be sparing in our effort to assist the courts in maintaining their high standards. For many years, our Court of Appeals has been overburdened with work, and, consequently, has been hampered in its effort to administer justice promptly and properly. You will have before you a bill to increase the membership of that Court from five to seven. I respectfully ask that you give that bill your support.

You will have before you other bills of the Legislative Council and other commissions. Some of them, I am sure are of immediate importance, and many of them worthy of your sincere consideration.

THE FISCAL PROGRAM

As I have said, your first responsibility at this 30-Day session is to provide the funds to operate the State government and maintain the services to the peoples of the State during the fiscal year which begins next July 1.

Documents setting forth the details of the financial program I am proposing will be placed in your hands today. These include the Budget Book, with the Personnel Supplement, and my complete printed message to you. I urge you to study this material carefully in your deliberation of the budget.

In my message to you last year, I promised to make a reappraisal of policies and governmental functions during the first year of my Administration. Such reappraisal has been made, and the results are