

COMMENT ON SIGNING ABORTION BILL

May 7, 1968

For two years now, the Maryland Legislature has considered legislation which would liberalize our present abortion law. At both of these sessions, I have fully endorsed the efforts of Delegate Allen Spector of Baltimore City to amend the current law.

I am pleased today to sign this legislation sponsored by Delegate Spector, House Bill 88. It places this question where it belongs, squarely before the medical profession, and it is significant to me that the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, the governing and licensing body of our doctors, strongly endorses this measure.

I understand and appreciate the concern of certain religious groups over possible abuses of the act, and I agree that unborn citizens have rights. But I frankly believe that the physician, faced with a medical decision for which he is highly trained and qualified, is the only one fully qualified to make this judgment.

VETO OF FARM ASSESSMENTS LEGISLATION

May 7, 1968

Honorable William S. James
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland
Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Section 17 of Article II of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed today Senate Bill I and am returning it to you.

This bill would make changes in the law relating to the assessment of land for farm and agricultural use. It would also set forth criteria which, when met, would cause the loss of the preferential assessment without consideration of additional factors.

I am well aware of the purpose for which the preferential farm assessment was established and am equally cognizant of the loss of revenue to the State and its subdivisions.

In examining the effect this bill would have, the problem must not be viewed from the narrow base of additional revenue which could