

Q. If the law were thrown out by the courts it would conceivably — or could conceivably require a special session to fix things?

A. I would think that if the law were faulty, and the court said so, and the Court of Appeals upheld that decision, and we weren't getting any mortgage money into the State, that might constitute a crisis serious enough for a special session, yes.

Q. Governor, what is your understanding of the present scope of the crisis involving the usury law?

A. Well, as far as I'm concerned, there's not a demonstrated crisis until somebody that's so concerned about it, as some seem to be, has taken the trouble to test it in the courts. They can't be too worried about it; they can file for a declaratory decree and get a decision, I'd say, within a couple of weeks. There has been no action; the Attorney General's office told me this morning that no case is filed; so I think that things can't be as bad as they've been said to be.

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REMARKS TO MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING,  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING, BALTIMORE

July 2, 1968

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The 89th Congress on November 3, 1968, enacted Public Law 89-749, which provided for the first time for *total* comprehensive planning in the public health field by the states in partnership with the Federal government. I emphasize the word TOTAL. That is the reason you are here today, and it is the reason why the Advisory Council on which you have agreed to serve is so large.

I understand that Maryland's 74-member Council is the largest appointed thus far in the country, with approximately half of the states moving toward full compliance with the law. There are definite reasons for this. First, Maryland is blessed by a multiplicity of excellent private and public health facilities, and it would be derelict not to draw upon all these resources.

The Federal law emphasizes that the majority of the Advisory Council must be consumers. We have consumers galore. And here again I think you'll find that the representation is as wide as it is