

which provides for the submission to the voters of Maryland of an amendment to Article 1, section 1, of the Constitution, regulating the franchise.

This bill has not been presented to me for my approval. I am officially advised by the Attorney-General that this bill cannot be lawfully submitted to the qualified voters of the State for adoption or rejection unless it is signed by me, if I approve it; or passed over my veto in accordance with Article 2, section 17, of the Constitution. Article 8 of the Bill of Rights declares "That the Legislative, Executive and Judicial powers of Government ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other; and no person exercising the functions of one said departments shall assume or discharge the duties of any other."

I would not be faithful to the duties of the high executive office to which I have been elected by the people, if I permitted, without protest, any of its Constitutional powers and prerogatives to be impaired. It is with regret that I am compelled by a sense of duty and in obedience to my deep-seated convictions as to what is best for the people, to officially declare that the said bill designated as chapter 96, entitled "An Act to amend section 1 of Article 1 of the Constitution of this State, and to provide for the submission of said amendment to the qualified voters of this State for adoption or rejection, has not my approval.

To thus refuse my sanction to a measure which has received the vote of every Democratic Member of the Senate and House of Delegates, has caused me deep concern. With every disposition to defer to the judgment of the Democratic Members of the Legislature on a subject where I am fully persuaded their action is the result of a sincere desire upon their part to discharge their obligation to the people and to redeem the pledges of their party, I find, after careful consideration, that I can not agree with their conclusions.

The platform of the Democratic party, upon which I was elected, contains this reference to what has been designated as "The Race Problem."