

tion purposes. On the remaining three days, no Orthodox Jew would be permitted by his faith to serve as a registration official or to use his home as a registration office, except after dark on the nights of the second and fourth days.

These circumstances would make it practically impossible to either have or man registration offices in a great many precincts on any of the present registration days.

I have ascertained the general sentiment about an extra session as well as I could. It is a tribute to the heritage which distinctly belongs to our State that there has been but one expression from non-Jews all over the State, namely, that the extra session should be called in simple fairness to this large group of our people.

I am not, however, acting because of any demand or pressure from any source. It is simply that I recognize an existing situation, have taken the time necessary to examine and appraise it calmly and carefully, and am convinced that fairness and justice to the people affected require a remedy which only the Legislature can give.

I have taken steps to assure myself that the Legislature will limit itself to this one subject, and that it can and will meet, pass the necessary law, and adjourn all in one day.

The cost of a one day session of the Legislature as provided by law would be something over \$8,000 of which about \$815 represents per diem for the members and desk officers (no employees being needed), about \$6,463 represents mileage, and the balance would be for printing and binding the proceedings.

I recognize that this is an appreciable amount, but it is not too much when weighed against the alternative of disfranchising a large group of citizens, or when considered in the light of our State's traditional policy of tolerance in all matters of religion. Under the same circumstances the same consideration should and would be given to any other group of Maryland people.

I have given a good deal of thought to the terms of the law which would properly meet the situation. There are two or three alternatives, but perhaps the best course would be simply to amend the existing law so as to substitute this year new registration days