

near enough to register these 20,000 or more persons, large numbers of whom live in communities.

In addition to this, there are around 400 Jewish election officials in Baltimore City, and a great many registration offices are in Jewish homes. This is necessarily so in many precincts of the city, especially as the officials are required to live in the precincts they represent and the registration offices must be located within their respective precincts.

None of these registration officials, whether Orthodox or Reformed, could serve at all on the first registration day, September 23, and no Jewish home could be used at all that day for registration 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.

If the registration days are not changed this year, then the result will be the virtual disfranchisement of a very considerable number of citizens, because their religious faith will not permit them to register on the days now designated. This would be unfair and unjust and contrary to our traditional policy of tolerance in matters of religion. The only way to remedy this situation is to change the registration days, and the only way to do this is to change the law.

Several kinds of legislation are possible. The law might be changed so as to authorize the Governor or the Board of Election Supervisors to fix the registration days between designated periods, and thus enable them to avoid undesirable dates. Or the law might be amended so as to authorize the Governor or the Election Supervisors, when conflicts or emergencies occur, to substitute other days for those which the law prescribes.

These and other suggestions, however, involve matters of important policy, the wisdom of which is debatable, and they go beyond the necessities of the present emergency.